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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1974



JACK WILLIAMS

PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Thursday, November 14, 1974

BACKGROUND

Governor John R. (Jack) Williams (R) was elected to his first two year term in 1966 and reelected to another two year term in 1968 and a four year term in 1970. He has held numerous state and local public offices including Mayor of Phoenix from 1956 to 1960.

Your most recent meeting with Governor Williams was during your trip to Arizona for the summit meeting with the President of Mexico. Governor Williams was highly complimentary of your thoughtfulness during that trip. He particularly praised you for making the Mexican summit your first trip out of the country to meet with a foreign head of state.

Your recently sent Governor Williams a congratulatory telegram on his 65th birthday. He is leaving public office this year.

JHF/11-13-74

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 13, 1974

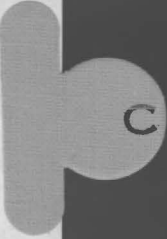
PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Thursday, November 14, 1974

BACKGROUND

Mayor Timothy (Tim) Barrow (R) is serving his first term as Mayor after having served several terms in the Arizona State Legislature. In his last term in the State House of Representatives, he served as Speaker of the House. Tim Barrow is a member of a family long noted in Arizona for leadership in the health field, having founded Barrow Neurological Institute, a nationally known health research center. The Mayor serves on the Board of the Institute and on the Boards of a major hospital and the State Health Planning Agencies.

In addition to political office and civic activities, Tim Barrow has been active as an investment counselor.



GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT

Question:

What is the Ford Administration doing to combat Arizona's growing unemployment rate?

Answer:

Phoenix and Maricopa County have been granted \$8.4 million under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to fund training programs and public service jobs. During fiscal 1974, 6,000 persons will be enrolled in job-training programs, and 150 persons will be hired by city and county agencies in public service jobs. In addition, the city and county expect to receive \$400,000 from CETA for migrant worker programs.

11/12/74
R. D. S.
Phoenix, Ariz.

VET REP

Question:

What is the status of the Vet Rep on Campus Program in Arizona?

Answer:

No special problems. There are 22 Vet Reps on 17 Campuses. They have conducted 28,663 interviews and resolved about 4765 Educational Assistance Inquiries.

Background:

It is estimated that there will be 19,000 college G.I. Bill enrollments this school year. All have been received and processed. An additional 3136 students will enroll in other types of schools and G.I. Bill training.

11/12/74
R. D. S.
Phoenix, Ariz.

VA HOSPITAL PHOENIX

Question:

What is the status of the 328 bed addition at Phoenix?

Answer:

The completion of this project is well under way. The estimated construction cost is \$20,429,000. The 328 bed addition is expected to be operational in September 1975.

Background:

The Phoenix, VAH is currently operating at a 94% occupancy rate and a 188% turnover rate. In addition, patients are shuttled to the Tucson, VAH on a daily basis in an effort to provide maximum service. This heavy workload is attributed to the rapid growth of the Arizona population (16% since 1970) which has an above average number of elderly citizens.

11/12/74
R. D. S.
Phoenix, Ariz.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

Question:

What is the employment situation in Phoenix-Maricopa County?

Answer:

As of September, 1974:

Total civil labor force	501,600
Total employment	471,900
Agricultural employment	9,400
Total unemployed	29,700
Unemployment rate	6.1%

Background:

About 60% of Arizona's wage and salary employment is located in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. The civilian labor force increased about 3.5% for the year ending in September.

Unemployment jumped sharply during the same year, to 6.1% in September 1974, compared to 4.2% in September 1973.

The construction industry is very depressed, with unemployment as high as 30%. Contractor Del Webb's experience is typical. A year ago, he was completing 20 homes a day; by next January, he expects to be completing only one home a week.

Manufacturing employment has also declined over the year, with the largest drop in the primary and fabricated metals group. Motorola laid off 2,000 workers in October.

11/12/74
R. D. S.
Phoenix, Ariz.

INFLATION

Question:

How has inflation affected Phoenix residents?

Answer:

According to figures compiled by the First National Bank of Arizona, living costs for a family of four increased 12% in Phoenix in 1973. However, the rate is 3.8% below the national average.

11/12/74
R. D. S.
Phoenix, Ariz.

WELFARE

Question:

What can be done to cut down the welfare load, not only here in Arizona but in the country as a whole?

Answer:

We at the Federal level think plenty can be done. We have embarked on a national program to cut down welfare losses through a program called "quality control". Essentially, it means that the Federal Government will not bankroll mistakes made by individual States in giving out money to either ineligible recipients, or overpayments to recipients. Latest figures show Arizona is a bit higher than the national average in both categories, but we are encouraged by the steps Arizona is taking to trim both those error rates. People in need of public assistance are entitled to it. What we are doing is cutting out the waste.

Background:

HEW's "quality control" program shows that Arizona lost some \$2.7 million in the first half of 1974 through payments to ineligible recipients and overpayments to other recipients.

Here is a table showing how Arizona stacks up with respect to the national averages:

	<u>National Average</u>	<u>Arizona</u>	<u>Goal/June 1975</u>
Ineligibles	10.2%	13.7%	3%
Overpayments	22.8%	26.8%	5%
Underpayments	8.1%	7.1%	5%

11/12/74

PGN

D



FUEL AND FERTILIZER

Question:

Are Arizona farmers going to be able to get fuel and fertilizer in the coming months?

Answer:

Fuel supplies are currently adequate to meet anticipated agricultural needs for 1975.

Current fertilizer supply estimates for 1975 indicate that supplies of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash will be somewhat tighter than in 1974.

Threatened curtailments of natural gas supplies could retard nitrogen production to the extent that 1975 nitrogen supplies would about equal those of 1974, while demand continues to increase.

M. Duval (N.R.)
11/12/74

HIGH SUGAR PRICES

Question:

How high do we expect sugar prices to go during the next few months in view of reports of sugar problems?

Answer:

The situation is expected to remain tight over the next few months.

Prices may not decline much until prospective output for the 1975 fall crop becomes available. Prospective high sugar prices may result in expanded sugar beet acreage next spring (1975). Sugar prices have reached unprecedented levels. It is difficult to assess when or at what level they will peak in view of the many complex international economic and political forces present.

Background:

Recent increases in sugar prices are related to several factors including (1) long-term decline in world stocks despite an uptrend in world output; (2) strong world demand and increasing consumption, especially in many developing nations; (3) lower U.S. production due to competitive pressures from alternative crops and adverse weather in several areas; (4) recent decreases in sugar beet production in Europe; (5) rumors of substantial purchases by foreign buyers; (6) uncertainties in regard to U.S. sugar policy; (7) increased U.S. price of imported sugar due to devaluation; (8) increased costs of production and processing due to the energy crisis; and (9) prospects of higher sugar prices may have led to some speculation or storage activity.

EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON PROGRAM

Question:

Are we going to change the legislative provisions on the Extra Long Staple Cotton Program?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture is actively seeking new Extra Long Staple Cotton Program legislation. The proposed legislation would embody a target price type program very similar to the present upland cotton, feed grain and wheat programs. The Department has been working closely with the Supima Association of America in developing the legislative proposals.

M. Duval (N.R.)
11/12/74

COLORADO RIVER SALINITY

Question:

Are we solving the salinity problems on the Colorado River?

Answer:

Yes, but this is a long term project that will require a great deal of cooperation among the seven Colorado River basin states, the U.S. Government, and the Government of Mexico.

Background:

There are several actions completed, underway, or being planned:

- Establishment of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (November 73).
- Passage of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act with authorized appropriations of \$185 million (June 1974).
- Construction of a \$120 million desalination plant in Yuma.
- Pumping additional groundwater into the system.
- Lining of the Coachella Canal.
- Other projects, both upstream and downstream from the Imperial Dam.

The man-made salinity in the Lower Colorado River is the result of various water resources uses, i. e., evaporation from the large reservoirs, irrigation practices, mining activities, and land management practices. Water exported for metropolitan and agricultural uses also has increased the salinity problem. In addition, intensive farming on the Arizona and California sides of the Colorado River has required more water than in the past, primarily because of new crops being raised.

These uses result in high salinity water to downstream water users (Mexico), causing millions of dollars of damages to crops.

Studies have shown the high salinity of stream systems can be alleviated. Sufficient information is now available to develop a salinity control program. Man-caused salinity can be controlled by improving irrigation, mining, and land management practices.

Before an effective control program can be implemented, uniform salinity standards are needed in the Colorado River Basin. To develop such standards requires the cooperation of the seven states, three EPA Regions, and the two Nations involved.

M. Duval (N.R.)
11/12/74

E

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974

Question:

How much money will Phoenix, Arizona receive under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974?

Answer:

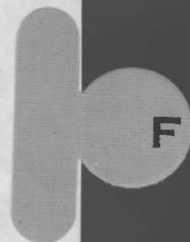
The monies authorized for Phoenix under the Community and Development Act of 1974 will sharply increase. This reflects the benefits of allocating funds through a needs formula rather than through a city's efforts to seek Federal approval for specific categorical projects. However, in addition to the substantial increase in monies, it is important to remember that the decision as to how this money will be spent will be made by the locally elected officials in Phoenix and not by government bureaucrats in Washington, D. C.

Background:

The Act authorizes the following total entitlement and/or hold-harmless funding (whichever is larger) for municipalities and urban counties: \$2.5 billion in FY 75; \$2.95 billion in FY 76; \$2.95 billion in FY 77. This money will be delivered by a formula which assesses a community's need based on the levels of population, housing overcrowding and poverty in that specific community.

<u>Phoenix, Arizona</u>	(dollars in thousands)
Prior program level	1,348
<hr/>	
FY 75 entitlement	2,633
FY 76 entitlement	6,243
FY 77 entitlement	9,522
FY 78 entitlement	9,683
FY 79 entitlement	9,683
FY 80 entitlement	9,683
TOTAL	<hr/> 47,447

11/12/74- AMB



OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

Question:

What is the current status of the Department of Justice investigation known as Operation Clean Sweep?

Answer:

Operation Clean Sweep is an ongoing Department of Justice investigation into alleged corruption by employees of the Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the southwestern United States. The investigation is proceeding to completion. The Deputy Attorney General is personally following the investigation very closely and has recently reported his conclusions on allegations of Clean Sweep misconduct to the Subcommittee on Legal and Monetary Affairs of the House Government Operations Committee. For all of these reasons, it is appropriate that I make no other comments about Operation Clean Sweep.

FLM
11/12/74

ALLEGATIONS BY CESAR CHAVEZ AGAINST INS

Question:

The UFW head, Cesar Chavez, has made repeated claims of collusion between INS and farm growers to permit Mexican illegal aliens to come in and work the farms and ranches as strike breakers. The UFW claims that on many occasions they have reported to the INS Border Patrol the presence of illegals on farms where strikes are in effect and the Border Patrol has turned its back. Have you any comment concerning these charges?

Answer:

I understand that Commissioner Chapman has strongly denied that INS is involved in a conspiracy to aid growers or any other group to allow illegal aliens to work on farms and ranches. In fact, the INS Border Patrol has followed-up on every complaint made by the UFW. In some instances, illegals were picked up by the Border Patrol, and in others, there were none.

FLM

11/12/74

CRIME IN PHOENIX

Question:

The latest FBI report shows that Phoenix, Arizona, now has one of the highest big-city crime rates in the country. Moreover, crime nationally is up 16 percent compared to last year. What is the Administration doing to combat this trend?

Answer:

LEAA has awarded \$5,571,472 to Arizona in 1974 for its law enforcement programs.

FLM
11/12/74

DISCRIMINATION IN FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Question:

What is the position of the Federal government on a lawsuit brought by a private Arizona group charging Agriculture Secretary Butz and the Arizona Department of Economic Security with discrimination in employment and services in the Arizona food stamp program?

Answer:

I can't comment on that specifically because it is before a court. But I do know that the Agriculture Department and the Justice Department are handling the matter in a way that will insure compliance with Federal law.

FLM
11/12/74