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Preparation of long-range,
not overlapping, but coordinating,
Present options; where I can submit
to Congress, or exec branches

Reporting: Pres is Chairman, VP is vice
Chairman. Cannon is best to Pres
Pres plans to be deeply involved
Cannon will be asked by Pres
on occasion. On occasion will be
asked by VP. Every contact does not
~~Example~~: Cannot pin down

to Dave NR.

part role in every situation
Pres does believe D.C. must
fulfill choicer responsibility
(see memo) Retitalize and
return to original

Domestic
Council

Analogy = EPB - ^{Simon (Chairman)} Seidman (Ex-Dir)
You = 80% day & day, 20% long range New = 50% day & day, 50% long range

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR DOMESTIC
COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

- Q: What is Rockefeller's role in the Domestic Council?
- A: The President has asked him to be Vice Chairman and as such he will oversee the Council's activities.
- Q: Will the Domestic Council work with the rest of the staff?
- A: The Domestic Council staff members will continue to work with the other offices in the Executive Office of the President and with the Departments and Agencies as they have in the past. The staff performs a major coordinating role in the domestic social area which is essential to the operation of the President's office. It will continue to play this role.
- Q: Are there key changes in concept or function in the Domestic Council as it is now envisioned?
- A: You will have to ask the Vice President and Mr. Cannon. However, I am sure that the concept and functions of the Council will not change dramatically. From time to time the emphasis and priority of problems will shift as they have in the past. I understand that the Vice President hopes to place more emphasis on longer-range planning and problem identification as has been the case up to now as is provided in the Council's charter.
- Q: What is its relation to OMB?
- A: The Domestic Council will continue to maintain a close coordinating role with OMB as is necessary when coordinating domestic policy and the budget that backs up implementation of this policy.

Q: Who are the current members of the Domestic Council?

A: The current members of the Domestic Council are listed on the memo which I have made available to you. The Domestic Council staff in the Executive Office of the President numbers roughly 30 and as you know has been under the direction of Ken Cole who has announced his resignation.

Q: What does the Domestic Council do?

A: Again, I refer you to the memo given to you this morning. But, essentially it is responsible for identifying domestic social needs and priorities, presenting the President with work options and programs to meet these needs and maintaining a continuing policy review of current programs. The staff also handles many day-to-day matters relating to domestic matters coming before the President. Finally the Domestic Council is responsible for intergovernmental relations with the Governors, Mayors, County Officials, etc.

Q: What will happen to the people who are presently on the staff?

A: You will have to discuss this with Mr. Cannon.

Q: How much will the new staff director be paid?

A: He will be an Executive Level II paid \$42,500 per year.

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A: He will be an Executive Level II paid \$42,500 per year.

Q: Will he be confirmed?

A: This position is not a confirmable position.

Q: Who pays the Executive Director:

A: The Executive Director has been paid by the White House office budget in the past and this arrangement will probably continue.

Q: Will this simply be a rehash of the Critical Choices Commission?

A: No. The Domestic Council's role and purpose in many ways is different from the Critical Choices Commission charter. However, I am sure the President welcomes the best possible thinking on America's domestic priorities and problems and I am sure the Critical Choices work will be a most valuable report for the President's consideration.

Q: Will the focus be on long-range planning?

A: As I mentioned before, I believe the Vice President intends to increase the emphasis on long-range planning. I am sure it's incorrect to say that the focus of the Domestic Council will be on long-range problems. The near term is also very important and, of course, falls within the responsibility of the Domestic Council.

Q: How can Cannon do the job, he has no Washington experience?

A: Both the President and the Vice President hold Jim Cannon in very high regard. He has had many years of public sector experience and both are most confident that he will have no trouble in executing his duties as Executive Director. For the past several years he has represented the State of New York here in Washington.

Q: Does this mean that Rocky won the battle with the White House staff?

A: There was no battle between the Vice President and the staff. As I have said, the President is anxious to have the best possible thinking devoted to the domestic social issues facing this country. There were differing views among various staff members as there are on most issues. The President considered various proposals and made the final decision.

*Pres best
served
by differing views*

Q: Will Rocky really have anything to do since there are no new programs?

A: The President has asked that there be no new spending programs in Fiscal Year 1976. As you know, there are many ways to address problems without spending increased funds. I am sure the Vice President will find that domestic issues will indeed give him an ample work.

Q: Will the staff become larger now that Rockefeller is controlling it?

A: The 1976 Domestic Council budget request was for 30 people, the same number presently on the staff. We do not anticipate an increase in the size of the staff.

Q: Whose political interests will the Domestic Council serve?

A: The Vice President would be the first to say that the Domestic Council is there to serve the President and the country's needs. He does not feel that there is a difference between his interests and the President's interests.

Q: How will Rumsfeld input any ideas he will have?

A: To the extent that Mr. Rumsfeld has ideas concerning domestic issues I am sure that he will have no difficulty having his ideas considered.

Q: Does this mean that Rockefeller is running the White House now?

A: This is the President's White House. He has insisted that the Vice President have a major substantive duty and he is pleased that such a talented person is available to assist him in the domestic area.

Q: What does the rest of the staff think? How will they be able to hold their own with the Vice President? Won't he overpower all other staff input?

A: I have not polled what the rest of the staff thinks, but, I am sure they are looking forward to working with the Vice President and Mr. Cannon and I am sure that the working relationships will be productive and cooperative.

Q: I thought the President wanted to emphasize the Cabinet. Now he is putting an overpowering individual in the White House to run the Domestic Council.

A: As you know, the Domestic Council is made up of Cabinet members and much of the work is done in Committees chaired by Cabinet officers. If anything, the assignment of the Vice President to work with the Cabinet on domestic issues will highlight the responsibilities and input of the Cabinet officers. It is no way intended to detract from the Cabinet and the President is most comfortable with this working arrangement.

Q: Will Rockefeller simply bring down all New York people to be on the Domestic Council?

A: You will have to speak with Mr. Cannon as to their staffing plans.

Q: Will the Domestic Council now be Rocky's political machine for the 1976 election?

A: No.

Q: How will the staff work be done? How do you prevent the White House from dividing into two camps, the Ford camp and the Rockefeller camp?

A: Because the Domestic Council is an integral part of the White House staff it would be impossible for the staff to break down into two camps if the White House process is to function smoothly. Both the Vice President and the President have no concern in this regard and will not tolerate the development of a "we/they" syndrome.

Question: Is it true that the President decided to give the Vice President a substantive role in the Domestic Council over the objections of his own White House Staff Members?

Answer: No. There was general agreement on the part of the staff that it was important to carve out a major role for the Vice President. There was considerable debate and differences of opinion with respect to exactly what the best arrangement would consist of. The President weighed the various alternatives, including recommendations from the Vice President, the Vice President's Staff and the President's Staff and made a decision which is reflected in his decision to name Jim Cannon as Director of the Domestic Council and in the memorandum he's sending to members of the Domestic Council spelling out the role of the Vice President.

February 14, 1975

PRESENT DOMESTIC COUNCIL STAFF

Q: What will happen to Jim Cavanaugh and others on the present Domestic Council staff?

A: That is a decision that will come from Jim Cannon, the new Executive Director. He will be making the choices of his staff members and we will announce them when he does.