

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESS CONFERENCE

OF

HANS TANZLER

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

AND

TOM BRADLEY

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

THE BRIEFING ROOM

1:00 P.M. EST

MR. NESSEN: Instead of just Mayor Tanzler, all participants in the meeting with the President have agreed to answer your questions and come down and talk to you.

The members who talked with the President are from the National League of Cities, the Executive Committee of the League. Mayor Tanzler of Jacksonville is the President of the League, and we have Mayor Moody of Columbus, who is one of the Vice Presidents; Mayor Bradley of Los Angeles, who is a former President, and Mrs. Lamphere, a Council member from Seattle, who is one of the Vice Presidents of the League this year.

I don't know whether you have something to say at the beginning, and then answer questions?

MAYOR TANZLER: Thank you, Ron.

The purpose of our being here is, of course, we are very much involved on the Hill at the moment. The number one priority of the cities that are represented by the National League of Cities, some 15,000, that number one priority, once again, is, of course, the re-enactment of general revenue sharing; the outcome of the future of the countercyclical public works bill and what exactly we can expect from that in the future; compromises of the House version and so forth versus the compromises mentioned by the President himself; the CETA employment figures and phase-out next year, and how that will affect the cities.

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We are, of course, extremely appreciative of the President's support of re-enactment of general revenue sharing. The importance of that in the formation of the budgets by the cities represented by the National League is extremely critical in the time frame, not only in the budgetary proceedings of the House and Senate, but our own local budgetary proceedings, almost 50 percent of whom are on a July 1 basis.

These are things that we appreciated very much the opportunity to sit down with the President and to express our concern, express our appreciation for his support, express our concern for the re-enactment thereof and to discuss some compromises in what looks like a Mexican stand-off from our view on the House and Senate on the countercyclical public works re-enactment.

Those are the things the President very cordially indicated to us his willingness to take a look at and to give very careful consideration. We did not expect to get any commitment this morning, but we are most appreciative of the opportunity of speaking with him.

Q Mayor Tanzler, yesterday you and Moon Landrieu were testifying before the Senate Budget Committee. You were quite critical of the President's proposed budget for this year. You said, among other things, that it would cause people in the cities, or actually the cities to bear an unfair additional burden for at least one more year and you also said the President had openly distorted the facts when he said that the public works bill would cost \$25,000 per job.

Did you convey these criticisms to the President personally today?

MAYOR TANZLER: There were four of us on the panel. I don't know to whom we are actually attributing those actual remarks. We do have some concerns in the plight of the cities and the general scaledown of the budget as it affects cities.

We did not go into all the details of the President's budget this morning, but rather restricted ourselves to the problems, the strategy and the political complications of actually getting a re-enactment of general revenue sharing with the various versions of the Fascell bill, the version that also includes a title of the countercyclical and the general revenue sharing bill itself, and things of this nature as well as a possible compromise insofar as what we understand the resistance is from the Democratic and the organized labor side of the public works aspect of the countercyclical bill.

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We did talk to him about CETA and trying to tie this to some possible actual indices in the individual cities relative to unemployment in those cities and we pretty well restricted ourselves to those three areas of conversation.

We did conclude by asking the President to consider our invitation to speak to our Congress of Cities, which will be here in Washington on March 15. Those are the only three areas we did talk to him about.

Q What was the result of it all? Did you get any feeling from the President of any way there can be a compromise on some of these issues and how he views the hopes for general revenue sharing?

MAYOR TANZLER: As I say, Secretary Lynn, as usual, very ably defended the President's and the Administration's positions. We discussed with them, however, some of the real serious situations that exist in certain cities.

I think Mayor Coleman Young's of Detroit most recent announcements--I relayed these to the President--that they are planning to lay off another 5,000 employees this week and looking at another 2,000 by the summer. This represents almost half of the police force. They are going to have to go to garbage pick-up every two weeks and such dire circumstances as this is going to exacerbate, if you will, already the schism that exists in the House and the Senate over certain of those relief bills. All of these things were discussed.

The President indicated -- I am speaking for myself, my evaluation and not one that is perhaps even shared by my fellow mayors and officials of the League -- but I certainly gathered that the President was indicating to us that he was most concerned and that he would get with his Secretary and Cabinet and re-examine some of these areas where the possibility of any compromise was in fact feasible.

That is really about all we could expect to obtain this morning, was to make the President aware of these matters.

MAYOR BRADLEY: I would say that is an accurate reflection of what happened. The President did indicate a willingness to examine those issues. We raised them in particular connection with the public works, the counter-cyclical bill with regard to CETA and he expressed a willingness to look at them again. I think that is very important as far as we are concerned.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 1:07 P.M. EST)