

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Cabinet Meeting - August 10, 1974; 10:07 a.m.

President Ford: First I want to express my deep gratitude for the way you handled an extremely difficult situation. Fortunately, I know you well and we can start out with a good rapport. My congratulations on the way you handled the last two months. Continuity and stability -- that is what the people want and the country needs.

In that sense, let me say first that no resignations need to be submitted. In the Public Relations sense, the wholesale request for resignations in 1973 was deplorable. I want you all to continue, and we will deal with any problems on a one-to-one basis.

I should bring up one problem -- my successor as Vice President. I believe we will use the same process as President Nixon used. I will have my own variation, but George [Bush] can crank up the National Committeemen, the Chairman and the members. We need recommendations by Wednesday. I would like the Cabinet to give them to me on a 1, 2, 3 basis. Funnel them to Haig by Wednesday. All of it will be treated confidentially. If for one reason or another you want to name only one or two, that's all right. I will ask Scott and Rhodes. It will be the same as the Congress. We will talk to some backers but no further _____ will connect with the _____ first.

I want to express my deep admiration for President Nixon. He was a great President. I respect the job he did. Under no circumstances will I speak adversely of him. I feel very strongly about this.

Monday I will speak at the Joint Session. I hope you will be present. I welcome suggestions. Funnel them through Al [Haig] to Bob [Hartmann]. Bob is my speechwriter and will be my counselor. Also, I want you to know Mr. Marsh. I stole him from Jim. Jack's responsibility will be -- not exclusively -- he has great rapport with the Congress. If you want help there, he has great rapport.

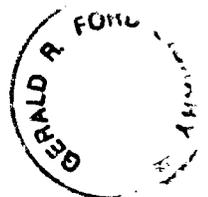
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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.8

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NSC MEMO, 11/2/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY , NARA, DATE 3/25/04

State de v. ew 3/9/04



Al [Haig] will stay also. I have great respect for him and I knew him when he worked for Dr. Kissinger. Everyone's style is different. Al will do what is needed. I am a talker rather than a reader. But I don't like chit chat. I will have an open door to all of you.

I have asked a group of four -- Don Rumsfeld, Rogers Morton, Bill Scranton, and Jack Marsh -- to look at the White House setup. Every empire has its own ideas of organization. I have learned about the White House Staff operation and met with Al today. I will have this group and Al make recommendations. I will probably make some change. It is important for the organization to be in tune with my methods. We will talk before I act and I will listen to anyone who thinks proposals may be wrong. We have a tough row to hoe. Who knows how long the honeymoon will last?

Kissinger: Mr. President, for all of my colleagues, I want to say that we think you performed a great national service. For the previous administration, we are proud of what we did. You can count on our total loyalty and full support. Anything the Cabinet can do will be done with our full capability and in your spirit as you outlined in your very moving speech.

President Ford: If you have any problems, come to me.

Morton: For procedures in the transition, I propose to concentrate with the Cabinet and get an idea on the communications between the White House and the Cabinet and other aspects of intergovernmental relations. We'll sit down with you and discuss things which shouldn't be reduced to writing. We would like to get your ideas without spreading the dirty laundry out. There may be good suggestions for improving.

Brennan: The big thing we ask is loyalty but to get on to business. Get the country back together. This is a good opportunity to bring people back -- some are on the sidelines. Many problems since Watergate were put on the back burners. So we can work on domestic problems. And keep on with foreign policy.

President Ford: I would like to work with you on some of these labor people who have been quite contained. We will make that call and talk with labor people.

Brennan: I have told people you will make your own decisions, but 90% of them are with you and I know the leaders want to support you.



Butz: _____ 10 months _____ the task of this group is to stop the erosion of votes on the Hill. We have ten months to turn this around.

President Ford: I haven't thought about the political aspect. The President can make a contribution by speaking before non-partisan groups. Kissinger and Jim can't be political, but the rest of you can help.

Saxbe: We have a number of issues in Justice. I think jawboning can help in the field of crime. I talked to Jerry Wilson about the figures going up and down. In your talks to people, there are no more gimmicks -- no more rabbits. If there is a break-down, it is not in law enforcement but in _____ and in the fabric of the society. If we don't get the kids between 15 and 20 we can't do it. We are in _____ for some of these kids.

We have a lot of legislation pending. We will talk to Al Haig about these. The Freedom of Information bill is in conference. It's a bad bill and I think a veto could be sustained. Primary bill.

Iranian arsenal would wipe out any electronic surveillance.

President Ford: If attached to the primary bill it would be non-germane in the House. I will be preoccupied working but this is a crisis. Get together together with ----

Saxbe: We can get to Pastore.

President Ford: Phil Buchen has been heading my investigation into pricing.

Morton: We will be plagued with questions about President Nixon. We need your guidance.

President Ford: Can you help?

Saxbe: There is no way Congress can grant immunity. It can be the suggestion of Congress, but it's for us to push. We have been emphasizing the generality; the Special Prosecutor has been handling it. He wants to close up shop and that would be good. If Jaworski goes ahead, though, I doubt it could be stopped by a sense of the Congress. The sentiment is that if 15-20 have gone to jail it has to run its course. I think it has to run its course.



President Ford: I think I will make no comment. My feeling is the attitude toward President Nixon is changing and if the vultures continue I think the people will revolt. I'm not sure these people know where to stop. They have been so vicious they may push to --- I think the people will revolt.

Weinberger: I have a couple of items of interest. I had a Department meeting when I urged them all to stay on. Your name was very well received.

I will give Bob our input to your office. Our views on national health insurance, and so on.

Jim: The healing process goes on, but we have some opportunity to enhance it. Labor I think will help you. The other area is the press. They will be critical, but we can end the mutual recriminations with help.

President Ford: I have had reasonably good press relations and have tried to continue. Please be affirmative with them. A little extra effort will make the reactions a little less critical and that will help.

Now I know you are all busy.

Simon: I could only reiterate what the others have said. We have an opportunity to regain the confidence of the American people.

President Ford: The atmosphere is right. We even got some good rain.

Butz: There is a lot of television about the drought. It is over now, but corn will be below last year. Wheat is a record crop. Export contracts are over half less than last year. Soybeans are good. Corn is perhaps one bit less than the previous estimate. We must give the impression that the food situation is not critical. It would be good for you to say that, Mr. President.

* * * *



get from 2 authors

Transcribed

Cabinet Meeting

1000 - 10 Aug 74

①

10:02 Present.

P First want to refer to my questions for my
buddled X group diff. set. First thing I know
you work & we stand out w/ respect. My
concepts are a way you handled last 2 mos.
Continuity & stability. That what people want
& country needs.

In that room, my resignation to be submitted
in PR sense, a whistle-blower in 23 was
deplorable. I want all to continue work
with deal w/ problems as 1 to base.

Should bring up 1 prob - my success as VP
of Abraham Lincoln will use same process as N. used.
I will have my own variation but George
Washington with Washington, Chen, George.

We need documentation by Wed. I
want into Cabinet use on 1, 2, 3 basis.
I want to bring by Wed. I want explanation
of the reasons another you want to work
only 1 or 2, etc. Will ask Scott & Rhonda
Beason as Cong. Will talk to some bodies
not in presence done rich. will assist
w/ first steps.

Deep admiration for N. Great P. Respect
job he did. Under no circumstances speak
adversely of him. Feel very strongly
about this.

Monday will speak at joint session. Hope
you will be present. Will make my points
firmly then ask to both. Both my speculations
& will be consulted. Also Wendell. Stah
bin pan jin. Jacob's ref will
be not necessarily he has quest

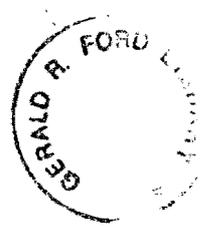


support w/c Craig. If you want help there,
 he has great support.
 Al will stay also. I have great respect for
 him & know him when he worked for H.
 My style. Every one's style is diff. Al will
 do what's needed. I am talker rather than
 listener - but I don't like chat chat. I
 have open door to all of you.

I chaired group of C - Knollsfield, Northern, Southern
 branch to look at WH setting. E. Simpson
 has an idea of WH output. I chaired of
 WHS ^{open} & met w/alt today. I will have
 this group & do make review. I will
 push make some changes. I suggested
 for output to be in terms of my methods
 we will look before start & I will listen
 to any who think propose way to any
 we have tough work to ^{do} ~~do~~. ~~the~~
 who know how long changeovers will
 last

H. For all my colleagues, we think your
 proposal part with serious. For previous
 admin, we proud of what we did.
 You can count on total loyalty &
 full support. Anything Cabinet could want
 to have w/ full responsibility of your spend
 or outlined in your working spec to

P
 Minton
 Any jobs, come to me
 In procedures in transition, I propose to
 meet w/ alt & get ideas on
 communication bet alt & Cabinet & other
 aspects of inter-gortal relations



Will sit down w/ ^{you} Bert Hill + discuss
thing which should be ^{will} introduced + writing.
Would like to get your ideas w/o spreading
dirty laundry out. They may be good
suggestions for improving

Brennan

Big thing we are on is loyalty but to get
on to business. Get everybody back together
best opportunity to bring people back -
some are reluctant. Tom Watson got
hit on ^{back burners} on the ^{side} business, we can work on business
parts. + FD

P W to work w/ you on some of these
ideas people who have been quite entire.
Will make that call + talk w/ other people

Brennan

I have told people you will make our
decisions, but ^{leaders} you and I
know the leaders want to support
you.

Barty

looking ^{down} at you and the task of this
group is to stop erosion of votes on Hill
We should meet to cover this area

P Haven't thought about political aspects, I think
can make contribution by looking - speaking
before our particular groups. It's Jim
can't be political, but rest of you can help

Sally

We have # of issues in practice. I think
looking can help in field of issues. Don
get talked to just listen about figures
going up + down. In your talk to people,
there are no verbal commitments - no
oral contracts, if breakdown, it's not
in law enforcement but in practice



fabric of a society. If we don't get a kind
bet 15-20, we can't do it. We are in
overhauling for some of these kids.

We have bit of logic pushing. Will talk to
at High Function of info bill in conf. bad
bill & think cuts could be sustained.

Privacy bill

Drummond would work out any
electronic surveillance

P If attached to Privacy bill it would be more
germane in House. Sent to procedural
committee but this is crisis. Get together as

Saxby we can get to pastor

P Bill Graham has been heading my investigation
into privacy

Waters we will be played as/ questions about it
Need guidance

Do you help?

Saxby We may have some great minority. Can be
sense of Cong. ~~Def~~ for us to push. We have
been emphasizing equality. Spec. Pro.
has been heading. He wants to close my
shops that we would be good. If I go
ahead, the I don't think could be stopped by
sense of Cong. Statement is that if 15-20
house goes to pass it has to run its course
I think it has to run its course

P I think no comment. My feeling is ~~to~~ attached
to it is changing a if Constitution certain
I think people would revolt. Not sure
those people know where to stop. They
have so much inertia they may push it



Cop I think people will write
sample of them of interest. Don't worry where
I might talk to you. Your name was
very well rec'd.

I think you'd be one night to your friend
Vince or with with insurance, etc.

Jim speaking process on, but we have some
open to unknown. When I think will help you.
Other area is press. They will be critical but
we can lead mutual re-examination with help.

P I have had reasonably good press relations & intend
to continue. Please be affirmative w/ them. A little
extra effort will make a difference a little
less critical & that will help.

How I have general busy.

Simon I could only estimate. We have open to
regain a copy of a copy right.

P atmosphere is right. Even just some rain.

Betty had of some TV about changed. It is over
can will be better but you. What is
level exp. X extent are 1/2 less than last
year. Says news good. Can perhaps 1 bit
less than previous est. Must give impression
that feel not not critical. Be good for
you to say that was P.

