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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Senate Steering Committee

TIME AND DATE: Tuesday, November 11, 1975
11:00 a. m.

PLACE: The White House
The Cabinet Room

Thurmond: I am getting very concerned about the Budget Committee's and their attitude on the Defense Budget. They are hitting defense in favor of social programs. It would help if we could get more White House and DOD help with the Republicans on the Budget Committee.

The President: I know Bellmon is strong on defense, but he has a strong conflict of interest. Who else is there?

McClure: Bell and I are the only ones who consistently support DOD. We are usually get three Democrats, but we need the other Republicans.

Thurmond: If you could have the new Secretary of Defense to have them to dinner.

The President: The \$7.5 billion cut was too deep, And if we don't get a SALT treaty, we will have to ask for more.

Thurmond: It is too bad that DOD entertainment can't be taken out of the Defense Budget.

Brock: There are a number of items like that. If we could have some of them out, it sure would help.

Thurmond: I think these setbacks on Defense will continue unless we make a concerted effort.

The President: Our people are doing all they can on the bill. When does it come to the floor?

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TOP SECRET
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KESSINGER

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3
NSC Memo, 3/30/00, State Dept. Guidelines, Sub Directive Sec 3.30
By MA NARA Date 8/19/09

Brock: Next week. I think we will lose, and that is why I think we should try to move some of these items out of the DOD budget.

McClure: I think if OMB would work with our people, we might get it moved out.

Scott: I think we must revise the military retirement system. It is just too big a burden. It is a long-term problem and we can't move quickly, but we have to do something. To me it is a part of the military costs and should not be separated out.

The President: There is a bill to stop the GI Bill. That was originally predicated on combat and that situation no longer exists. The House passed it and I think it should be pushed.



✓ P/Senate Steering Comtee
11 Nov 75

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Thurmond I getting very concerned about Budget Comtee & their attitude on Def budget. They are hitting def in favor of social prog. It would help if we could get some w/ A & DOD help w/ a Regs on a Budget Comtee.

P I know Bellman is strong on def, but he has a strong emphasis of interest also there is there

McClure Bell(?) & I are only ones who consistently vote for ~~the~~ support DOD. We usually get 3 Demos, but we need other votes

Thurmond If you could have new Sec Def & have them ~~together~~ to dinner.

P The 7.5 mil cut was too deep. And if we don't get a SALT treaty, we will have to ask for more.

Thurmond It too bad that DOD retirement can't be taken out of Def Budget

Brack There are a # of others like that. If we could move some of them out it would help.

Thurmond I think these attacks on Defense will continue unless we make concerted effort.

P Our people are doing all they can on the bill. When does it come to the floor.

Brack Next week. I think we will use that why I think we should try to move some of these items out of a DOD budget.

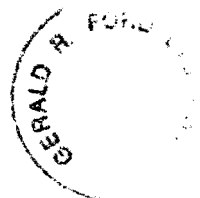
McClure I think if OMB would work w/ our people

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/75, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY: WJ NARA DATE 4/16/04



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We might get it moved out.

Scott I think we must revise - rail retirement system. It is just too big a burden. It is a long term prob. & we can't move quickly but we have to do something. To me it is a part of a rail. costs & should not be separated out.

P There is a bill to stop G. B. M. That was ^{orig} prohibited on enactment & that is no longer exist. The House passed it & I think it should be ~~passed~~ pushed.

W. H.



Ken. Scofield

Given to me by
Senator Thurmond.

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