

DIARY OF WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP
MEETINGS -- 91st CONGRESS

March 3, 1970

The President opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m. by introducing Moynihan to discuss the message of education reform which the President is sending today to the Congress. Moynihan said that this message would deal with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. A message on higher education will be forthcoming later. He said the first message will be very sophisticated and will prove a little difficult to explain to the country. It will be unpopular because it will arouse the professional educators who are convinced that all education needs is more money. The truth is that what education needs is research to decide what programs work and what programs do not work. We have spent over \$1 billion in Title I of ESEA and the progress statistics show very little progress. What we are doing is spending money "to help the poor by increasing the salaries of people with master's degrees." He reviewed the message, making detailed explanations of the proposal for a National Institute of Education, the Commission on School Finance (which is to be headed by Neil McElroy), renewal of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, preschool education and establishing the right to read as a national educational goal for the 1970's. The message will call for spending a total of \$200 million in the Right-to-Read project, including \$16 million in Title III, ESEA, \$50 million in Title II, ESEA, and \$34 million to initiate the program. Research shows that 15 million children today cannot read properly. One out of 20 cannot read well enough to earn a promotion from one grade to the next. Eight million adults are functionally illiterate.

The Vice President said that this would become a great political issue.

RMN said that the federal share of the \$65 billion expenditure for education in this country is only 7%. However,



before total spending is increased, prudence requires that we conduct the research necessary to "find out not how much, but how." Republicans will be accused of caring \$1 billion less about education than Democrats. However, our concern about overspending has to do not only with the inflationary impact. We simply do not want to spend more money for the same old system which failed to do the job. We need to emphasize the quality of education.

For Congressional reports, the President turned first to Scott, who expressed his delight that the Senate has concluded action on the Labor-HEW appropriations bill. The debate on the voting rights bill should be concluded in one or two weeks unless the amendments Senator Ervin has will require more time. This debate is holding up the Carswell confirmation. Hruska and Eastland are reluctant to move to go into executive session. To do so would be to offend Mansfield. The last Whip check shows 29 Republicans for Carswell, 1 against, 4 leaning against, 4 leaning for and 3 undecided. With respect to the business of the Senate, we are today where we were September 12 last year.

RMN said that more delay on the Carswell confirmation cannot be justified. The debate is sterile. Everybody knows that Carswell is going to be confirmed. The interest of the Court and the interest of the nation require that the Senate move promptly and vote the man up or down. If they vote him down, "I will send them someone from Mississippi." The opponents are delaying just to smear the man.

Albitt said that the key to the whole puzzle is Mansfield. If he says that there will be no executive session on Carswell, then it becomes a party matter.



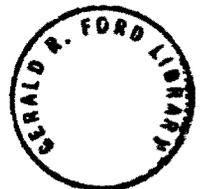
Griffin suggested that even if a decision were made to go into executive session, they would have to consider 3 other nominees on the confirmation calendar ahead of Carswell. Apparently, Mansfield has delayed action on these purposely to strengthen his leverage on the Carswell matter.

Ford made a brief report of legislative history in the House in recent weeks. Currently, the principal problem is the Labor-HEW 1970 appropriations bill. A decision must be made today concerning procedure. We have several options. We can go to conference; consider a motion to recede and concur in the Senate amendments under suspension of the rules; consider a similar motion under a rule; or consider a motion to instruct the House conferees to accept the Senate version. The Democratic Study Group favors the Senate version. Southern Democrats likely will oppose the Senate version because it omits the Jonas and Whitten amendments.

The District of Columbia Omnibus Crime bill could be scheduled on District Day, March 9, or later under a regular rule. The Senate Judgeship bill is ready for House action. The LEAA bill should be ready before the Easter Recess. After that, hopefully, the Organized Crime bill can be considered.

Cramer asked for administration support in his proposal to set up a contingency fund for oil clean up. Oil slicks in Florida and elsewhere are becoming a major pollution problem.

RMN explained why he felt it necessary for him to make a flying trip to New York to attend, as a substitute for the Vice President, the dinner honoring Pompidou. First, this was the first visit by a French head of state since 1960, and



common courtesy dictated hospitality. Second, it was necessary to demonstrate once again the fact that the President will not permit policy to be dictated by demonstrations in the public streets. Third, in spite of current differences with French leaders, France has been America's oldest ally and at a time when we are confronting Russia across the table in the SALT talks, we gain nothing by alienating France.

On the question of jet sales by France to Libya, Pompidou made it plain that Libya, the richest nation in the Arab complex, was prepared to buy the aircraft somewhere, and if not from France, from Russia. If the latter, they almost surely would end up in Nasser's hands.

In connection with the demonstrations, the President wondered aloud why similar demonstrations were not targeted against Russia, which is the principal supplier of arms and munitions to all Arab nations.

We adjourned at 10:20 a. m.

RHP:MJ



MARCH 3, 1970

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESS CONFERENCE
OF
SENATOR HUGH SCOTT
AND

CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD
THE ROOSEVELT ROOM

AT 10:45 A.M. EST.

SENATOR SCOTT: Ladies and Gentlemen, as you know, the President is sending up the message to Congress on Education Reform. You have it and you will be briefed right after this, I understand, by Dr. Moynihan and Dr. Allen. He will propose a National Institute of Education, a Commission on School Finance, he will discuss a Corporation for Public Broadcasting. They will be \$52 million further funds for early learning, and on the Right to Read, \$200 million will be requested in Titles II and III.

There will be \$116 million in Title III, Supplementary Education; \$50 million in Title II for books and similar tools of the trade, and \$34 million extra money for initiating reading programs,

The Right to Read is stressed strongly. There are about 15 million school children in this country who can't read well enough to understand adequately what is going on. There are 8 million adults who are functional illiterates. The Right to Read Program is one where the Federal Government can marshal the resources. It is looked upon not merely as a Federal program, but a nationwide effort whereby all of the school systems will be engaged.

This is very much of a reform and innovative program which examines the school systems of America, and wherein they have failed, with particular attention to the early learning process. We heard today that a child's educational capacity is about half formed at the age of two years and three months. So that is a rather significant factor, and that will be taken into consideration in dealing with a child under five.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: As Senator Scott has indicated, Pat Moynihan and Dr. Allen took most of the time briefing us on the situation that is going to be presented in the message.

One set of statistics that impressed me tremendously was the fact that in 1945 the total U. S. commitment to education, Federal, State and local, was about \$4 billion a year, two percent of our GNP. In 1969, the total commitment, Federal, State and local was about \$62 billion and slightly more than seven percent of our GNP, and that the Federal Government contributed only seven percent of the \$62 billion in this total educational effort

MORE



SENATOR SCOTT: The ability to read, Jerry, it was brought out, has not appreciably improved in over 50 years.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: The other subject that was discussed is one that is currently before the House, and it is what to do with the somewhat controversial Department of HEW-Labor appropriations bill.

It is our feeling that the Senate version should be accepted by the House. The White House will accept the Senate version and we will do what we can to see that the House, in one way or another, in a somewhat difficult parliamentary situation, will try to accept the Senate version.

It is not entirely perfect. No bill is, and certainly this one would be difficult to achieve, but it is the best solution to a long and complicated controversy.

Q Senator, you mentioned that a child's capacity for learning is formed at two years, three months, according to whom?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, according to Dr. Moynihan and Dr. Allen. Dr. Moyniahn made the point first that approximately one-half of the child's capacity to learn throughout life is formed at the age of two years, three months, a fact, he says, which has only recently be developed by the people who do that kind of thing.

Q Was there a discussion of anything else, other than the HEW bill and the educational message?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, there was not.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 10:55 A.M. EST.)



HOUSE ACTION, PERIOD FEBRUARY 17 THROUGH MARCH 2, 1970

Wednesday, February 18, 1970

POPULATION GROWTH COMMISSION

RULE

The House adopted H.Res.819 by a voice vote, providing for one hour of debate.

PASSAGE

By a record vote of 371 yeas to 13 nays, the House passed H.R.15165, to establish a Commission on Population Growth and the American Future.

Subsequently, this passage was vacated and a similar Senate-passed bill, S.2701, was passed in lieu, after being amended to contain the language of the House bill as passed.

PRODUCTION RESEARCH

RULE

The House adopted H.Res.816 by a voice vote, providing for one hour of debate.

PASSAGE

By a voice vote, the House passed H.R.14810, to authorize production research under marketing agreement and order programs.

Thursday, February 19, 1970

LABOR - H E W APPROPRIATIONS

PASSAGE

By a record vote of 315 yeas to 81 nays, the House passed H.R.15931, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970.

Prior to passage, the House agreed to the Steed amendment that added \$80 million in funds for impacted aid, raising impacted aid money to the fiscal 1969 level; this amendment was agreed to by a teller vote of 131 yeas to 63 nays.



LABOR - H E W APPROPRIATIONS Continued

RECOMMIT

By a record vote of 189 yeas to 205 nays, the House rejected Mr. Michel's motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report it back forthwith containing an amendment that would limit expenditures to 97½% of the total funds available in the bill.

Tuesday, February 24, 1970

D. C. LEGISLATION

By a record vote of 246 yeas to 117 nays, the House adopted H.R.10335, to revise certain provisions of the criminal laws of the District of Columbia relating to offenses against hotels, motels, and other commercial lodgings.

The House also passed the following bills, all by voice votes:

- H.R.13307 To change the requirement of consent to the adoption of a person under 21 years of age.
- H.R.14982 To provide for the immunity from taxation in the District of Columbia in the case of the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium, and any successor organization.
- H.R.8656 To authorize the use of certain real property in the District of Columbia for chancery purposes.
- H.R.10336 To revise certain laws relating to the liability of hotels, motels, and similar establishments in the District of Columbia.
- H.R.15980 To make certain revisions in the retirement benefits of District of Columbia public school teachers and other educational employees.
- H.R.15381 To amend the District of Columbia Income and Franchise Tax Act of 1947 with respect to the taxation of regulated investment companies.

By a record vote of 136 yeas to 230 nays, H.R.10937, a bill to authorize a study of the Eisenhower National Memorial Arena was defeated.

By a record vote of 97 yeas to 262 nays, H.R.14608, a bill to compensate holders of ABC licenses who return such licenses, was defeated.

FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

By a voice vote, the House agreed to the conference report on H.R.2, to provide for an independent Federal agency for the supervision of federally chartered credit unions, thus clearing the measure for the White House.



Thursday, February 26, 1970

CONFERENCE REPORTS

The House cleared the following conference reports by voice votes:

- H.R.11702 To improve and extend the provisions relating to medical libraries, clearing the measure for the White House.
- S.2809 Project grants for graduate training in public health and traineeships, returning the measure to the Senate.
- H.R.14733 To extend the program of assistance for health services for domestic migrant agricultural workers, clearing the measure for the President.

By a record vote of 369 yeas to no nays, the House passed the conference report for S.2523, to improve the program of assistance for community mental health centers and facilities for alcoholics and narcotic addicts; the measure was returned to the Senate for further action.

RULE REJECTED

By a record vote of 150 yeas to 228 nays, the House rejected H.Res.799, providing for the consideration of, two hours of debate on, waiving points of order against sections 4 and 5 of H.R.12025, to provide for the more efficient development and improved management of national forest commercial forest land, to establish a high timber yield fund.

Tuesday, March 3, 1970 and Balance of Week

SUSPENSIONS (three bills)

- S.2593 To exclude certain persons from the numerical limitation of Western Hemisphere immigration
- H.R.4574 To provide for the admission to the United States of certain inhabitants of the Bonin Islands
- H.R.914 For the relief of Hood River County, Oregon
- H.R.11832 To provide for the establishment of an International Quarantine Station (subject to a rule being granted)
- H.R.14169 Expansion of Agricultural Exports (subject to a rule being granted)
- S.2910 To authorize additional funds for the Library of Congress James Madison Memorial Building (subject to a rule being granted)

