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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: KENNETH R. COLE, JR.

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

The attached material was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation to you:

-- Info.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

Federal Funds Permit Adding 10 Employees to County Welfare Staff

By Maury DeJonge

Employment of 10 persons for the Kent County Department of Social Services under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) was approved Monday by the Legislative, Judicial and Taxation Committee.

The matter previously had been postponed, as was a request for additional personnel at Kent Community Hospital. Evert Vermeer, director of county welfare, said the additional personnel would add to the efficiency of his department.

Approved were three general assistance investigators; two accounts receivable specialists and five account clerks.

The request also is expected to be presented to the Finance Committee for approval before concurrence by the county Board of Commissioners.

Vermeer said the investigators would make home visits on all general assistance recipients and would be responsible for making home visits within six months of the time a recipient is put on assistance. Comparable salary range for state employees in this category begins at \$8,686 per year, plus county fringe benefits.

The two accounts receivable specialists would be responsible for setting up a routine manner of collecting from persons owing the county welfare department and would make home visits. Their salaries would be \$8,686 plus fringe benefits.

Vermeer said it is anticipated full-time

collectors could return to the county a minimum of four-times their annual salary.

The five clerks would be used in accounting functions, filing and maintenance of records. The positions would pay \$6,994 plus fringe benefits.

The county will receive \$1,551,000 over the next 18 months in CETA funds which are earmarked for hiring unemployed persons.

Deputy Controller Richard Platte said CETA monies, coupled with existing Emergency Employment Act funds, make it possible for a total hiring of 143 unemployed persons. That figure is based on an average per-worker income of \$12,300 over the next 18 months.

Commissioner Charles Wiersma, committee chairman, expressed concern over the fact that there is little "discipline" over those persons receiving food stamps.

"It's another example of federal legislation that breeds inflation," Wiersma said.

Vermeer said he agreed there are some abuses in the program, but nevertheless declared, "It's the best way to feed people."

Commissioner Stephen L. Kishkorn said he has come to the conclusion that attempting to keep a hand on the food stamp program is nearly impossible.

He pointed out that it has been forecast that in the next few years 50 million persons in the United

States will be eligible for food stamps. "Who is going to pay the bill?" he asked.

The committee was given a favorable picture of "Project Growth," a program started by Wiersma and Kishkorn with the cooperation of the Agricultural Extension Office and Commissioner Friley T. Johnson.

Purpose of the project was to give young persons in the inner city experience in raising vegetables in vacant lots.

Richard Reath, head of the extension office, told the committee the project "was all plus, and next year will be even more successful."

Wiersma, who arranged to have the lots plowed, said with the limited amount of time available for the project (because of the late spring), "I would consider the first year a success and would like to see it continued."

He said bills received by the county to date total \$917. "For that kind of money we accomplished a heck of a lot," Wiersma said.

Vermeer said he would be happy to have welfare recipients participate in the project next year, and Kishkorn said Kent County was about "nine months ahead of the President's (Gerald R. Ford) request that Americans plant their own gardens to help fight world famine."

On another matter, the committee heard Commissioner Robert Schellenberg criticize the trend toward regional planning.

"We should eliminate regionalism and get back to planning at the local level," Schellenberg said. "Regionalism is a mistake. The budget for the Region 8 organization is something else."

Commissioner Thomas Lamoreaux joined in the criticism, saying the tendency of Region 8 planning in general is that "they always come up with plans, but we never see them implemented."

Kent Drain Job Open

Kent County Probate Judge A. Dale Stoppels announced Monday that anyone interested in the county drain commissioner post must notify him within the next two or three days since Frank Bouma's resignation is effective Nov. 30.

Stoppels said he plans to meet with Kent Prosecutor James K. Miller and County Clerk Jack Bronkema Tuesday to discuss appointments, but the trio wants to be apprised of those seeking the post.

Bouma 63, drain commissioner since 1961, submitted his resignation to Bronkema Friday. According to state law, the prosecutor, senior probate judge and county clerk must designate a successor.

Annual salary for the post is \$16,500.

Four Face Charges of Gambling

Innocent pleas were recorded for four men in Grand Rapids District Court to state gambling law violation charges stemming from a weekend attempt by police to crack down on football betting operations.

James Beaton Jr., 34, of 1333 Kendall St. SE, was ordered to post \$300 bond by Judge J. Robert Smolenski when charged with three specific incidents of taking bets while tending bar at Sayfee's East, 3555 Lake Eastbrook Blvd. The violations charged were on Oct. 23, 30, and Nov. 14.

Thomas Anderson, 30, of 1723 Herrick Ave. NE, stood mute and bond was set at \$200. Anderson, a real estate salesman, was arrested in a local bowling alley Friday as an alleged distributor of football betting cards. Anderson was cited for violations Nov. 1 and 21.

Alan Groskopf, 23, of 10 Somerset Dr. NE, stood mute and was ordered to post \$100 bond for an alleged violation Nov. 20.

The Courts

Asks Holdup Test . . .

Raynard Atkinson, 20, demanded Grand Rapids District Court examination on an unarmed robbery charge stemming from an incident Saturday at Oom's Hardware store, 755 Eastern Ave. SE.

Atkinson, of 735 Worden St. SE, allegedly demanded money from store owner Arthur Oom, and received \$80. Judge J. Robert Smolenski ordered Atkinson to post \$10,000 bond. The accused asked for a court-appointed attorney.

Byron B. Brennen, 22, of 3186 Bird Ave. NE, demanded examination and was ordered to post \$300 bond when charged with carrying a concealed weapon and possession of marijuana. Police were dispatched to the 2000-block of Paris Ave. SE, Saturday evening on a suspicious person call. When they arrived, they found Brennen in an auto brandishing a .357-caliber magnum revolver and the illegal substance, officers said.

Charged with possessing Dexedrine, James R. Smith, 26, of 444 Worden St. SE, demanded examination and asked for a court-appointed attorney. Smith was arrested Friday when he was stopped by uniformed officers at Wealthy St. and



dent, asked repeatedly.

"If your contracts are so good, why don't you let the workers vote by secret ballot?" she demanded.

Louis Uribe, a Latino California farm worker in the Teamsters, charged that the UFW imported voters for elections and that the only way to assure fair polls would be to have the National Labor Relations Board supervise. That would require legislation bringing farm workers under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

Chuck O'Brien, the Teamsters' main debater from Detroit, pointed out that the UFW refuses to join his union in pushing for such legislation.

Ms. Huerta said the NLRA procedures are too slow for migrant workers whose picking season may be over before elections are held and counted. Elections under the NLRA aren't binding upon management, she said, insisting that farm worker