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Central Files

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN... *df*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *m.f.*

SUBJECT: Keith Sebelius (R-Kan.)

I am attaching a letter from Congressman Sebelius which I have acknowledged but because of his comments in paragraphs two and three I am bringing it to your attention.

gmr

May 7, 1975

Dear Keith:

I have just finished reading your letter concerning your thoughts regarding the President's veto of the farm bill.

I can certainly understand your disappointment because of the obvious support the bill has among some of your constituents, and I am sure you are most familiar with the President's veto message and reasons he stated for his decision.

As you can well imagine, this was not an easy call because of the very difficult choices involved, but I think that the President must stay within the confines of his budget limit if we are not to suffer yet another round of very serious inflation and its resulting damaging impact on all Americans.

Please be assured that we certainly value your support on many many other issues and the fact that you have been of great assistance to the President in these very difficult months.

As you request I will make sure that the President is aware of your remarks concerning the Republican National Convention and other points you make in your letter.

I do appreciate your candid views on the issue of the farm bill and hope that we can work together on the many other issues that will be before us during the 94th Congress.

With cordial regard,

Sincerely yours,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

Honorable Keith G. Sebelius
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF:jg

bcc: ~~Bob Hartmann~~ w/inc.
Elouise Prayer - FYI

COUNTIES:

BARBER
BARTON
CHEYENNE
CLARK
CLAY
CLOUD
COMANCHE
DECATUR
EDWARDS
ELLIS
ELLSWORTH
FINNEY
FORD
GOVE
GRAHAM
GRANT
GRAY
GREELEY
HAMILTON
HASKELL
HODGEMAN
JEWELL
KEARNY
KIOWA
LANE
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LOGAN
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NESS
NORTON
OSBORNE
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PAWNEE
PHILLIPS
PRATT
RAWLINS
REPUBLIC
RICE
ROOKS
RUSH
RUSSELL
SALINE
SCOTT
SEWARD
SHERIDAN
SHERMAN
SMITH
STAFFORD
STANTON
STEVENS
THOMAS
TREGO
WALLACE
WASHINGTON
WICHITA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 5, 1975

C. PATRICK ROBERTS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MELVIN E. THOMPSON
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
LIVESTOCK AND GRAINS
(RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)

FAMILY FARMS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MAY 6 1975

INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION
(RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)
MINES AND MINING

Mr. Max Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Max:

I am sending you this letter with the hope my thoughts can be brought to the attention of the President in some appropriate way. I have taken the liberty of sending copies to folks I think should be aware of my feelings in this regard.

Some time ago, I told our district Republican officials and various chairmen I would like to have the privilege of being a delegate to the Republican National Convention. I wanted to be a delegate with the expressed purpose of supporting and actively working for the nomination of the President.

As of today, I do not feel it would be in my own or the President's best interests for me to be a delegate with that avowed purpose. Bluntly put, the President's veto of the farm bill, the lack of a renewed commitment to a strong export policy firmly stated in the veto message, plus other political considerations that have led the farmer to believe this Administration is not sympathetic to agriculture. Given the current mood among Republicans in my own district, I would simply be stirring up a hornet's nest with my intent to support Jerry Ford. If I cannot support the President, I have no desire to attend the convention.

Rather than go into a detailed accounting of why I feel this Administration must publicly pay heed to the farmer's plight with a program commensurate with what Secretary Butz can sell, I am enclosing two press clippings and one copy of our Farm Report I felt compelled to release.

I am also enclosing a copy of a telegram received from S. Dean Evans of Salina, Kansas and a letter from Edgar W. White of Elkhart. Max, please read the telegram from Dean Evans carefully. He is the strongest supporter I have in the state of Kansas both from a monetary

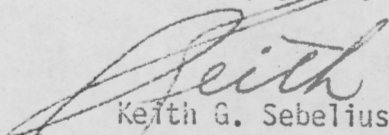
Mr. Max Friedersdorf - 2
May 5, 1975

organization and personal standpoint. Ed White has been in the conservative Republican ranks for years. When these folks write, "we" are in trouble.

I realize the current farm bill can and probably will be a pandora's box full of subsidy and food stamp problems the Democrat Caucus will want opened up. They would do this regardless and farmers won't buy that kind of package. Since the veto message and that one line, "the Administration will make every effort to avoid any future export restrictions", the market for wheat has again suffered serious declines. That was already the "Administration" position and on two occasions export restraints have been imposed.

In my Farm Report, I stated the Administration could not have it both ways, namely a farm veto and no assurances of an export program free from government interference. I was wrong. But, I believe I am right in stating that if we do not give Secretary Butz some ammunition this current mood could very well prevail in farm country in 1976 with very severe political implications for the President; not to mention Republican congressional candidates like myself.

Sincerely yours,



Keith G. Sebelius

KGS:aa

cc: Honorable Earl L. Butz
Mr. Jack Calkins
Mr. Hyde Murray