

DP group

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

JOHN EHRLICHMAN

This is to recommend that we discuss the following subjects at the first meeting of the Domestic Planning Group:

- A. We should set firm guidelines as to where we are and where we are going in 1969. This means determining what major proposals are still forthcoming and establishing a priority for them and dates by which we should try to have them completed.

We should also review where we stand on legislative proposals submitted to date.

As a last step, we should review the list of things currently being considered and those still forthcoming and determine a priority for all of them so that we can indicate to the President where he should put his weight. As you know, we have transmitted many Presidential proposals to the Congress and there are still a good number forthcoming. I believe that we have succeeded in spreading the President's influence over too broad an area. This should be reexamined.

- B. I think that we should take a good hard look at our planning for 1970. I had a long talk with Sam Hughes the other day and came up with these basic dates for major statements for 1970:
 - 1. State of the Union -- This should take place during the week Congress convenes. Custom dictates that it be done before the economic report. This means that the President's State of the Union Message would take place somewhere between January 5-10, 1970.

2. Budget Report -- This generally falls 10 days to two weeks after Congress convenes. It would be transmitted to the Congress somewhere around January 20.
3. Economic Report -- This usually closely follows the Budget report. Planned date of transmittal would be around January 22.

The problem here is that the reporting date for Task Force Reports is the end of the year. This deadline may be far too close to the public presentation of the President's new proposals. Consequently, we must reopen this with Arthur Burns. For the Task Forces to be effective for legislative planning for 1970 (assuming that our desire at the outset is for the President to state a proposal and elaborate on a strong cohesive, comprehensive program) it is my feeling the task force reports should be in as early as possible and, at any rate, no later than October 1, 1969. This October 1 report could be a preliminary report but it would certainly have to be explicit enough for us to begin planning in regards to the State of the Union Message, the Budget Message and the Economic Report.

- C. We should discuss long-range plans -- where we want to be in 1976 and 1972. These should be broad strokes but specific enough so that we can work back from them in the development of annual domestic proposals.


KEN COLE