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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU  
OF THE BUDGET

From: John C. Whitaker

The Ash Council, during the next month or two, will give birth to a new baby which will probably propose major reorganizations of the Executive Branch to deal with the environmental problem. For example -- some of their extremely tentative thinking might be to create three separate departments as follows:

1. A pollution control agency which might include air pollution from HEW, water pollution from Interior, ESSA from the Department of Commerce, as well as some way to get a handle on pesticide controls.
2. A Department of Resources which might include the current water, land and recreational areas in the Department of Interior and adding to it the oceanographic elements of Government.
3. A Department of Energy Resources which might include the Atomic Energy Commission, Bureau of Mines, the Rural Electrification Administration and any of the mineral elements such as Geological Survey.

In discussions today with Amory Bradford, who is the project manager on the Ash Council for the program, I suggested and he agreed that now is the proper time for BOB to assign a man to work with on the fiscal implications of their proposed reorganization plan. It might be as simple a matter as rejiggering existing budgets into new departments, but I imagine there will be considerable overhead and administrative outlay built into the situation.

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I would appreciate it, therefore, if you would assign someone, and I presume it might be Jim Schlesinger, to contact Murray Comarow who, in turn, will put your man together with Amory Bradford to get going on the budget implications of the Ash Council's tentative plans to deal with the environment.

cc: Mr. Amory Bradford  
Mr. Murray Comarow  
Mr. James Schlesinger  
~~Mr. John Ehrlichman~~