

July 15, 1970

TO: Pat Moynihan
FROM: Donald A. Webster *DN*
SUBJECT: President's Meeting with the Finance Committee,
Republicans, Monday, July 20, 1970

Ken Cole asked that I send you my latest thoughts on the President's meeting with the Republicans on the Finance Committee next Monday:

1. Those present should include, besides the President, the Vice President, Secretary Richardson, Director Shultz, Bryce Harlow, and Richard Nathan (to answer technical questions should they arise). This is larger than I would like but each person is there for an important reason.

2. My guess is that 30 to 45 minutes would be sufficient. Hopefully the atmosphere can be warm, informal and relaxed.

3. The Senators do not require a briefing. They have heard earlier testimony and have met privately with Richardson, Finch, Shultz, Veneman and many others. Most of them understand the Bill well enough to know that they do not like it. I do not believe that a briefing or any attempt to convince them on the merits would succeed at this point. The only way they might be brought around is by a strong and direct appeal from the President himself on grounds of loyalty to the Party and to the Administration.

4. The members line up about as follows: Senators Bennett and Miller will probably support the Bill, but not enthusiastically. Senators Williams, Curtis and probably Fannin are strongly opposed and will be difficult to reach. Senators Jordan and Hansen are opposed but are disturbed to find themselves in opposition to the President on so important an issue. I think that they can be convinced to support the Bill.

5. The purpose of the meeting with the President is four-fold:

(a) Many of the members feel that the President does not really know what is in the legislation

Pat
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and that if he knew, he would not support it. They want a chance to get off their chests their deep concerns about the program (vastly expanding welfare roles and costs, the guaranteed income idea, the concept of paying the working poor). It is important that the President listen to their complaints and concerns and then make clear that he understands this legislation and is 100 percent behind it.

(b) The President must urge the members to show support in open Committee hearings and to do their best to move the legislation along quickly. If in good conscience they cannot support the Bill openly, they should at least be asked to mute their public criticism.

(c) The President should press them to permit a Bill close to the Administration's version to be reported from the Committee, with no commitments being made as to how they vote on the floor.

(d) The President should close by asking for their advice -- What should we be doing that we haven't yet done?

cc: Messrs. Ed Morgan and Ken Cole