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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ROY ~~A.~~ ASH

SUBJECT:

Vocational Rehabilitation Bill
(H.R. 14225)

Attached are some talking points that you may wish to use in convincing Senators and Representatives to support your veto of H.R. 14225.

Attachment

MAJOR MANAGEMENT IMPEDIMENTS IN THE VETOED
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BILL (HR 14225)

- A. The bill would reduce the ability of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to manage his Department.
1. It would remove the Rehabilitation Services Administration from an Assistant Secretary's responsibility and put it directly in the Secretary's office. This arbitrary transfer of a large operating agency to the Secretary's office would impair the ability of the Secretary to provide overall management and would reduce his ability to focus on policy issues of major significance.
 2. It also requires all the responsibilities of the Commissioner of the RSA to be performed by RSA personnel. This is too rigid because some of these responsibilities can be performed more efficiently by others in the Department of HEW or elsewhere in the Federal government.
 3. The definition of handicapped individuals in the Act is very fuzzy which greatly complicates decisions under the anti-discrimination provisions of the Act. A better definition is needed.
 4. An outside board (The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board) has to approve all construction grants for new Federal buildings or renovations under the Act. The same Board can withhold all Federal funds for any building not meeting the standards included in the Act. This is a cumbersome and inflexible system and undermines the authority and responsibility of all operating agencies. A much better approach would be for these agencies to execute their building projects under the Act, subject to the review of the Board to be sure they are meeting the appropriate standards.
- B. The Bill further weakens the responsibility and authority of all Federal agency heads in other ways.
5. It requires the Secretary of HEW to review and approve the placement and operation of all blind vending facilities on Federal property. Each Federal agency should be responsible for initially determining the placement and operation of such facilities, subject to the approval of the Secretary of HEW.

6. The Bill also has the Secretary of HEW, after consulting with Agency heads or State licensing agencies, determining that every rental, purchase, or renovation of Federal property has satisfactory facilities for blind vendors. This will require an additional 250-man bureaucracy in HEW. A better solution would be to leave this responsibility up to each individual Agency head.
7. The Act mandates formal Federal arbitration of disputes between State agencies, Federal agencies and blind licensees. A more reasonable way to achieve this objective would be to give the individual agencies the responsibility for providing full and fair hearings to blind licensees.