

**The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “Rockefeller, Nelson - Progress Report on Assignments” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

- ① Add Hartman?
- ② Edit - Stoff out for Pres Sign  
substance issues -
- ③ Get reader to release & circulate
- ④ Reporting -

Membership - ?

Cut TP on Art Over



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

January 31, 1975

(P)

FROM: THE VICE PRESIDENT

hard

RE: PROGRESS REPORT ON ASSIGNMENTS

1. National Security Council

Your designation of the Vice President as Vice Chairman of the Council

ACTION: Captain Jonathan T. Howe, USN, a former NSC staff member, has been designated as Military Assistant to the Vice President and is also functioning in a liaison role with the NSC, State Department, Defense Department and intelligence community.

I now receive daily briefings on pertinent matters vital to National Security.

2. Domestic Council

ACTION: (Memo attached - Tab A)

3. Assisting in Presenting and Explaining Presidential Program

ACTION: Already underway

4. Assisting in Recruiting Top People

ACTION: Have suggested names for the two Cabinet posts you requested.

Have ongoing relationship with Bill Walker in checking names requested by him.

Stand ready to submit suggestions for top positions if requested.



5. Republican National Committee

ACTION: Have reviewed situation and am ready to discuss it with you.

6. Bicentennial Celebration

ACTION: Have had the current status of activities reviewed (see attached memo - Tab B).

I would like to discuss possible course of federally sponsored action for focusing the public's attention on the future as well as the past.

7. Commission on the Organization of Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy

ACTION: You have already appointed me as a member.

I have met twice with Bob Murphy on the policy issues, and have discussed them with him, Secretary Kissinger and General Goodpaster. General Goodpaster is now serving as Special Assistant to the Vice President in connection with this responsibility, to which he can devote as much time as necessary. Captain Howe will be our liaison with the Commission staff. We are obtaining their staff papers for review.

I heard a rumor today that Senators Mansfield and Pearson are considering writing a minority report if their views are not fully adopted. I will run this down with Senator Pearson.

8. Council of Social Advisers

I have had the legislative history of this proposal reviewed (see attached memo - Tab C).

ACTION: My recommendation is that a capacity for providing advice to the President on social indicators be centralized in the staff of the Domestic Council.

9. Science Advisory Function

This situation has been intensively reviewed and a great many scientists have been consulted. I am attending a meeting tomorrow, Saturday, February first, from which I hope a final recommendation will emerge for transmittal to you next week.

There is general agreement that unless a science adviser, with or without a Council, has continuing access and can participate on a day-to-day basis in policy formulation at the White House level, it would be better not to make such an appointment.

The revitalization of the Domestic Council along its original lines would provide one of the logical places for scientific and technological advice in relation to domestic matters.

10. Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States

ACTION: Three meetings of the Commission have been already held and further meetings are scheduled. The staff and office arrangements are almost fully completed.



TAB A



THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: THE VICE PRESIDENT  
SUBJECT: DOMESTIC COUNCIL

As we discussed, I am attaching for your consideration a revised draft memorandum you may wish to send to members of the Domestic Council.

Attachments

January 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
SECRETARY OF LABOR  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
WELFARE  
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
AND BUDGET  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF  
ECONOMIC ADVISORS  
CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY  
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY  
ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC COUNCIL

In order to help me carry out my responsibilities for domestic policy formulation within a broad conceptual framework which is responsive to our present national urgencies, I want to have the Domestic Council exert full efforts to carry out all policy functions contemplated for it when it was established in 1970:

- Assessing national needs and identifying alternative ways of meeting them.
- Providing rapid response to Presidential needs for policy advice.
- Coordinating the establishment of national priorities for the allocation of available resources.
- Maintaining a continuous policy review of on-going programs.
- Proposing reforms as needed.



I would specifically like to emphasize the following essential components of these functions:

- Identify major policy problem areas requiring Administration attention and action.
- Coordinate the formulation of policy options in the domestic area for my consideration.
- Initiate fact-finding analysis, develop policy options and recommendations for Presidential decision, Administration action and legislation.
- Review departmental legislative proposals for their impact on present policy and legislation and consistency with Administration policy.
- Establish guidelines for formulation of Departmental and Agency administrative regulations to ensure consistency with Administration policy objectives and legislative intent.

Because of the complexity and interrelationship of domestic policies and programs, I believe the broadest perspectives must be brought to bear in the Domestic Council's deliberations. For this reason, I have asked the Vice President to serve as Vice Chairman of the Council and to oversee the work of the Domestic Council.

I am also asking the Vice Chairman to supervise the Council staff and to propose such reorganization of the Council as from time to time may be necessary. In this connection, I am directing the Executive Director of the Council to report to me through the Vice Chairman.

To expedite the work of the Council, the Vice Chairman will have authority in my behalf to form task forces and review groups of officials at the appropriate levels of Departments and Agencies involved. Consultants and advisers will be retained to assist these groups, when appropriate.

In order for the Domestic Council to carry out my objectives, it is essential that the Council have the full cooperation of your Department or Agency including the furnishing of material and the detailing of staff as appropriate.

I have today appointed James M. Cannon to become Executive Director of the Domestic Council and Assistant to the President.

Appendices dealing with Council membership and organization are attached.

## Appendix A

### MEMBERS

I am at this time directing that the Council shall continue to be composed of the officers of the Executive Branch designated at the beginning of this memorandum. I may in the future direct changes in the composition of the Council as provided in the reorganization plan by which the Council was established.

No members of the White House staff with Cabinet rank or Assistants to the President with responsibility for matters to be dealt with by the Council are included as members of the Council, because they are expected as part of their regular assignments to participate as appropriate in the functions of the Council and its staff.

## Appendix B

### ORGANIZATION

In order to provide the Domestic Council with greater flexibility in resolving immediately pressing issues, and in developing intermediate and long-range goals and policies, I am directing that all Committees of the Domestic Council be discontinued except for the following:

The Committee on Community Development  
The Committee on Veterans Service  
The Committee on Privacy

The work of the former Committees will be carried out by task forces and review groups to be formed as needed to deal with specific needs, issues and programs.

The Domestic Council shall also continue to assist the President on intergovernmental relations, as outlined in Executive Order 11690.

TAB B



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM ON BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

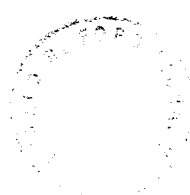
The Bicentennial program is not in any sense a centrally planned, structured, or even coordinated effort. A huge number of events, some say as many as 20,000, ranging from statements of spiritual reawakening to the striking of commemorative ashtrays, will take place. One of the principal activities of the federal agency involved is simply trying to keep track of what is going on with a computer printout.

This is probably as it should be, allowing each community or interest group to commemorate in its own way. Most or all of this is going to happen no matter what the Federal Government does or does not do, and this undirected diversity is probably as refreshing a restatement of the Revolutionary spirit as one could want.

What follows is a brief description of the various programs and activities currently underway.

A. American Revolution Bicentennial Administration:  
There is in existence, a federal agency, the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration (ARBA). It is headed by John Warner, former Secretary of the Navy. It has about \$30 million, \$20 million of which is being doled out to the states and territories on a peculiarly equal apportionment--i.e., Guam gets the same thing as California.

The Administration came about after a checkered and unhappy history of commissions dating back to the Johnson Administration. In fact, Carl Humelsine, President of Colonial



Williamsburg, was the first Chairman of the Commission. The American Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) essentially coordinates, promotes, and stimulates Bicentennial activity by others--others being federal agencies, state and local governments, private corporations and organizations.

ARBA is the keeper of the official Bicentennial Seal and is empowered to authorize the use of the Seal on paperweights, scarves, and other trinkets. This is a somewhat controversial activity.

Administrator Warner plans to be an active participant on the ceremonial circuit and, since I have made his acquaintance last week, has been to Pasadena for the Rose Bowl parade and to Paris for the opening of an exposition. His abilities in this area are highly regarded.

B. American Issues Forum: The National Endowment for the Humanities is preparing what is known as a calendar of issues for the Bicentennial. This "calendar" is a series of nine major issues, with four subdivisions under each. The concept, originally suggested by Walter Cronkite, is to stimulate a simultaneous national discussion of national issues by various segments of the society from differing viewpoints--from September 1975 through May 1976.

The issues which make up the calendar were selected not as current issues or problems but rather as "abiding issues" which have affected American life and which will continue to do so. These criteria produce such major headings as "Certain Unalienable Rights," "Growing Up in America," "Working in America," "The Business of America," and so forth. The subtopics are somewhat more specific but still more general than those of Critical Choices.

The originators of the idea are aware of the generality, but they view the "calendar" as a framework which will be fleshed out in different ways by different groups. For example, labor might approach the issues one way and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce or the Rotarians in another.

The Endowment for the Humanities will print 250,000 of the calendars and distribute them in February. A major event is planned to announce the publication and draw attention to it. The present thinking is that the program will be pretty much on its own after that point, although there is considerable hope for at least public television participation and perhaps some commercial television. Unions, schools, library associations, and citizen groups have committed to devising programs under the calendar. The Endowment will do a modest amount of promotion but views its follow-on role as limited.

C. Other Federal Agencies: Many federal agencies are carrying out projects under the Bicentennial banner. One estimate is that some \$200 million is involved, but much of this represents activities which the agencies might be doing anyway as ambitious administrators.

For example, the National Park Service is carrying out a sorely-needed major rehabilitation of the national parks as part of the Bicentennial. Other imaginative bureaucrats have packaged similar undertakings.

The National Endowment for the Arts has made a number of grants with a Bicentennial connection. There are some 500 grants worth \$18 million which are related in one way or another to the Bicentennial.

D. Community Involvement Network: This is a program whereby 20 cities across the nation will examine their goals and means of achieving





them in a systematic way. It is based on the successful effort in Dallas along these lines. The project is funded with \$500,000 from ARBA and several foundations, including the John D. Rockefeller III Fund. Willard Wirtz is retained as President.

The idea is to involve citizens and communities across the land in their problems on the local level, improve that process, and exchange information among communities. For example, if one community is doing parks or police better than another, that information will be spread about. Although the program is still somewhat general, this does hold promise of being a project of substance.

E. John D. Rockefeller III Declaration:  
John D. Rockefeller III has proposed a declaration on the Bicentennial and has written you urging that the President be involved in signing it.

John D. Rockefeller III has lined up some 40 distinguished Americans as signers.

The declaration is a well-written statement of principal, but it is not quite clear as to where it leads.

F. State, Local, and Private Efforts: Each state has its own Bicentennial Commission; and many cities, towns, and villages have theirs as well. Boston and Philadelphia, for instance, are understandably particularly active. Private organizations are sponsoring everything from quilting bees to ocean yacht races.

The computer printout published by ARBA on a quarterly basis lists these activities as to time and place and indicates some of them as authorized Bicentennial activities. However, with a very few exceptions, it does not offer either money, advice, or anything else to them.

These scheduled events are, however,  
the backbone of the Bicentennial Celebration  
as it stands now.



TAB C