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REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP MEETING
Monday, February 2, 1976
6:00 p.m.

Cabinet Room

Gen Brown - Oklahoma



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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 2, 1976

MEETING WITH REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

Monday, February 2, 1976

6:00-7:00 p.m. (60 minutes)

The Cabinet Room

From: Max L. Friedersdorf

M.L.F.

I. PURPOSE

To discuss strategy on H.R. 9464, the Natural Gas Emergency Bill.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. The House will open debate Tuesday on H.R. 9464, and although the Administration supports short-term emergency gas purchasing authorities, it is imperative that this bill be amended to include long-term deregulation of new natural gas. Such authority is contained in the Krueger amendment. The bill should also be amended to delete a requirement for statutory interference with local utility pricing, delete a troublesome citizen suit provision, and add a provision for emergency gas purchases by high priority end users.
2. The Rule permits a vote on the Krueger amendment and an effort will be made to defeat the Rule by opponents of long-term deregulation (Dingell, Eckhardt, et.al.).
3. The Republican whip check on the Rule looks encouraging with prospects of losing only about 20 Republicans.

B. Participants: See TAB A

C. Press Plan:

Meeting has been announced; Press and White House photos; Zarb and leaders available for briefing afterwards.

III. AGENDA

See TAB B

IV. TALKING POINTS

See TAB C



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PARTICIPANTS

The President
Administrator Zarb
Assistant Administrator Hill

SENATE

Hugh Scott
Bob Griffin
Carl Curtis
Bob Stafford
John Tower
Ted Stevens
Paul Fannin

HOUSE

Bob Michel
Sam Devine
Barber Conable
Jack Edwards
Jim Quillen
Guy Vander Jagt
Bud Brown
Carlos Moorhead
Jim Broyhill
Jim Collins

STAFF

Bob Hartmann
Jack Marsh
Dick Cheney
Phil Buchen
Max Friedersdorf
Jim Lynn
Brent Scowcroft
Jim Cannon
Alan Greenspan
Bill Seidman
Ron Nessen
Doug Bennett
Vern Loen
Bill Kendall
Charles Leppert
Tom Loeffler
Russ Rourke
Bob Wolthuis
Eric Zausner

REGRETS

The Vice President
John Rhodes
John Anderson
Lou Frey
John Heinz

AGENDA

- 6:00-6:10 p.m.
(10 minutes)
- The President opens the meeting and discusses the need for passage of long-term natural gas deregulation.
- 6:10-6:20 p.m.
(10 minutes)
- The President calls upon Frank Zarb for supplementary remarks.
- 6:20-6:45 p.m.
(25 minutes)
- The President calls upon the leaders for comments. (Bob Michel for whip check update; Bud Brown, Jim Broyhill, Jim Collins and Carlos Moorhead as Committee and Subcommittee Members handling the bill.)
- 6:45-7:00 p.m.
(15 minutes)
- The President opens the meeting to general discussion and questions.
- 7:00 p.m.
- The President adjourns the meeting.

TALKING POINTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL
LEADERSHIP MEETING

NATURAL GAS DEREGULATION

- . I understand that natural gas legislation may be brought up on the House floor tomorrow and that we have a good chance of passing the Krueger amendment to the Dingell emergency bill if the opponents of deregulation fail in their attempts to frustrate the legislative process.
- . This House vote could well be one of the most important votes the Nation ever takes regarding its energy future -- its ability to become independent. Failure to deregulate new gas could result in an additional 2 million barrels per day of oil imports by 1985.
- . There is absolutely no reason not to deregulate new gas. The issue has been studied to death; trends of current regulation and the reasons for those trends (declining domestic production) are perfectly clear; it is time to act.
- . We have been fortunate this winter in that our earlier estimates of shortages have not come completely to pass. But we cannot let the lessening dangers of this winter lessen the need or motivation for action. We have been lucky -- mother nature did for us with its warmer temperatures what the Congress has been unable to do -- but our luck will not last forever. The situation is deteriorating so rapidly that even mother nature will not be able to help in the months ahead.
- . There are, of course, costs to deregulating new gas -- gas will cost more in the future. But the benefits are greater: not only will we be able to use our remaining supplies of our cleanest fuel, but our vulnerability to embargoes will be reduced dramatically. Besides, the costs will be no different to the Nation from deregulation than from continued regulation. If regulation continues, the gas will not be produced, and consumers will have to switch to higher priced oil. The issue of protecting the consumer is thus a false issue -- it is simply a question of our gas versus someone else's oil.
- . As you know, the Administration supports the basic thrusts of the Krueger amendment. Frank is here to discuss the Krueger bill and the advantages we see in it over and above the Pearson-Bentsen bill passed by the Senate.
- . Frank, why don't you spend a few minutes going through the bill.