**The original documents are located in Box C1, folder "Presidential Handwriting, 8/27/1974 (1)" of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

Al Haig

Phil B.

I agree. Let's move.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:          Philip W. Buchen   PWB

SUBJECT:       Future Role of the Privacy Committee

An early announcement by you concerning the future of the
Domestic Council Committee on the Right of Privacy is
recommended.

Following the Committee's last meeting on July 10, the staff has
been working with concerned agencies to implement the endorsed
initiatives and to initiate new studies as planned.  The next
meeting of the Committee was announced for late September or
early October.  The subject of privacy and the work of the Committee
have been given increased stimulus and visibility by your remarks
to the Congress on August 12.  Press commentary has been extensive
and favorable.

The following recommendations are advanced for your approval:

    (1)   The Domestic Council Committee on the Right of
           Privacy Should Be Continued for the Indefinite Future.

           This action is consistent with the priority status you
           have given to protection of personal privacy by the
           Administration.

    (2)   The New Vice President, After Confirmation, Should
           Be Designated Committee Chairman.

           The job of Chairman, as a precedent, should devolve to
           the Vice President as one of his priority responsibilities,
           thereby easing the Presidential burden in one area of
           substantive responsibility.

(3) <u>Until a New Vice President Is Confirmed, You Should
Direct That Immediate Supervision of the Committee
Operations Be Exercised by the Domestic Council.</u>

Under this proposal, Doug Metz would succeed me formally
as Acting Executive Director but work directly under the
Domestic Council until the new Vice President selects his
Executive Director.

This plan is preferable to naming a Cabinet Committee
member as an Acting Chairman for the interim. As you
know, each member agency has a strong institutional bias
and unique privacy perspective -- and varying degrees of
enthusiasm for certain privacy initiatives. A strong,
independent balance wheel is vital to assuring a sound,
balanced approach to safeguarding personal privacy.
Currently, several agencies are actively competing for
leadership in the privacy effort. To give one agency a
lead role, albeit for a brief period, would risk (1) foreclosure
of some organizational options for the transition team,
(2) likely programmatic distortion of current and planned
privacy initiatives we have undertaken, (3) probable
organizational constraints on the new Vice President, and
(4) possible unfavorable publicity because of known individual
agency biases with respect to privacy issues.

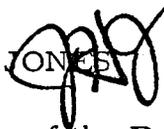Announcement of the foregoing actions would be made by Jerry terHorst.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

# THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:       PHILIP W. BUCHEN

FROM:                 JERRY H. JONES

SUBJECT:              Future Role of the Privacy Committee

Your memorandum to the President of August 27 on the above
subject has been reviewed and the three recommendations set
forth in the memo were approved.  Please note the following
notation:

       -- I agree.  Let's move.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

Thank you.

cc: Al Haig