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7/18/75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Paul O'Neil
OMB

info

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PAUL O'NEILL

FROM:

JERRY H. JONES 

The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation to you:

-- Info.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

last year, he started his own footwear fashion consulting firm, Centipede International in Eastbrook Mall, after working for Wolverine Worldwide in Rockford. Page 1C.

■ Ms. Jayne Hager, home economist for the National Livestock and Meat Board in Chicago, says beef is in good supply and there will be an abundance for the next nine months to a year. Prices are lower now and will drop again, says Ms. Hager. Page 2C.

■ "National estimates show 1 per cent of any population stutters, so that means a high population of stutterers here, said Sandra Wagner, one of six persons who have formed a Council of Stutterers locally and are trying to beef up membership. "We aren't offering any cures, but we are offering the stutterer an atmosphere where he or she can work on his speech surrounded by understanding and encouragement." Page 2C.



Taking a Trip?

Weather

■ 949-4253 Twenty-four hours every day. National Weather Service forecast for Grand Rapids and vicinity.

■ 1-800-292-2520 (toll-free) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Extended forecast for lower, upper Michigan.

Road Conditions

■ 866-4411 (Rockford state police) Updates at 5 a.m., 4 p.m.

Snow Conditions

■ 1-800-292-2520 (toll-free) Latest snow conditions, winter resort and sports guide with statewide ski and snowmobile maps mailed free.

Where to Go

■ 456-5107 (8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.) or 1-800-292-2520 (toll free) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Latest information on what's going on anywhere in Michigan. Events to attend in West Michigan include the Snowmobile Day-Night Safari Saturday at Honor, in Benzie County; state outdoor speed skating championships Saturday and Sunday at Petoskey, and Golden Gloves tournament Monday at George W. Welsh Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids, with finals Saturday, Feb. 8.

Gas

■ 1-800-482-5300. (Toll-free). Friday and Saturdays, 6 a.m. to midnight, Sundays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for gas availability points.

Detours

■ In West Michigan: Bridge carrying M75 over the Boyne River in Boyne City is closed, detouring traffic to Water St., Lake St. and State St.

■ 1-800-482-5300 (Toll-free) for questions on any detour in Michigan.

Save-A-Life

■ 456-3400. For Grand Rapids medical emergencies. Outside of city one nearest local police.

to the neck, for being seen with a man after 10 the previous night. The Jenison Education Association likely won't complain.

Rules here are not ambiguous, punishment is swift and stern: Boys and girls playing together, four lashes; quarreling, four lashes; possession of playing cards, ten lashes; lies, seven lashes; profanity, eight lashes; long fingernails, two lashes; failure to bow, two lashes.

"They pull your hair," confides Robert Semeyn, 10, one of the students.

Primitive. Rude. No pencils or paper. A single book for 186 students. It could have been 200 years ago.

And that, precisely, was the idea this week at Gloria VanWestenbrugge's 5th and 6th grade Rosewood School class.

"They have taken it so seriously . . . they are really good at role playing," Mrs. VanWesten-

randomly in partitioned areas of a large room.

"I didn't anticipate anything like this at all. During spelling session, one of the students mentioned that his father had taken arms to Concord," she says.

"When I told him he shouldn't be talking to loudly about such things, one of the girls said her father was a spy and knew about it — Benedict Arnold," Mrs. VanWestenbrugge says.

For the last few days, students have spent afternoons making lanterns out of tin cans, pounding wheat grains to a pulp in a makeshift flour "mill," dipping candles and making soap from lye and animal fat.

The girls made the long, patterned skirts they are wearing and, early in the week, were working on a flag, a la Betsy Ross.

In the print shop, a group of students pieced together from a font of type the galleys for

couldn't find out much about music in those times."

But they did what they could, reciting from a single book, parroting back spelling words and experiencing proximity of a hickory switch.

Teachers and aides at the school have strung cards chronologically across the room, marking the big dates of the Revolutionary War.

At the end of the American history lessons, Mrs. VanWestenbrugge says, the youngsters will try a final traditional exercise: They'll take a test.

The teacher says her pupils will be expected to know the 13 original states and label them on a map, understand the basics of the Declaration of Independence, explain the causes of the Revolution and define some "circa 1776" words.

She didn't say whether she still will have the hickory stick.

Kent-CAP Layoffs Stir Bitterness

By Joel Clark

A previously suppressed sense of rage felt by many low-paid employees of the Kent-Community Action Program since being laid off last week erupted Wednesday at the Kent-CAP Board of Governors meeting.

Those employees were temporarily released last Monday by CAP Director Ray Tardy and informed they would be eligible for rehiring in 10 days under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

The layoffs cut across all salary levels in the social action program, with assistant directors of neighborhood complexes sharing the idleness. Of 132 total CAP employees, 42 were chosen to forfeit two weeks pay. At least 30 have continued to work part or full time without wages to maintain continuity in their tasks, CAP officials said.

Probably the most severely affected were the urban agents, who make approximately \$5,200 per year.

Because of the mass layoff and the way in which it was handled, the Advisory Board of the Northeast Complex sent a representative to the Board of Governors meeting to move for an investigation of CAP affairs.

Mrs. Sylvia Runyon, who later withdrew her motion so it could be studied by the advisory councils of the other neighborhood centers, West Side Complex, Franklin-Hall Complex, Sheldon Complex and the

Lowell Community Center, called for an investigation into all CAP funding for the last year.

Reaction to the two-week period of joblessness had been most vociferous at the Northeast Complex because workers had been officially laid off the Friday before they were notified.

Tardy acknowledged after the meeting that he hadn't told the employees until the following Monday.

"There are two ways of looking at this," Tardy said. "Everybody was notified that we would be making the transition to CETA funds in October. That was the way our program could be stabilized.

In October, Kent CAP was unsure of future funding because of the dismantling of the Office of Economic Opportunity that had gone on during the Nixon administration. By 1973, all community action funding was frozen at existing levels.

On January 4 of this year, President Ford signed the Community Services Administration Act, which replaces the office of Economic Opportunity. Copies of that bill are not yet available, but Kent CAP should get about \$525,000 from that source in the coming year.

Of those temporarily idled, many were persons who might not have qualified for hiring under city guidelines in the event the city became the hiring agent for CETA.

But the City Commission has decided to get out of the hiring business for persons in social action agencies and supported a motion to make the Grand Rapids Area

Manpower Planning Council (GRAMC) the "employer of record."

One employee at the Northeast Complex, Alice Zainea, resigned her post as coordinator of volunteers in anger over the mechanics of the layoff.

A CAP employee who is close to Tardy, Michael Reagan, a community relations officer, was among those who chose to remain working in Tardy's office. Reagan, who makes \$7,000 a year, said it was too bad he had to go two weeks without pay, but that he will seek unemployment benefits for that period.

Most of the others indicated they would apply for Michigan Employment Security Commission checks, but they may run into trouble if they continue to work full time without pay.

"According to the MESC (Michigan Employment Security Commission)" said CAP business manager Lou Abid, "you have to be available for work."

Michael Riolo asked that the board consider asking the commission to find an alternative to CETA funds, since under federal guidelines, wages in the program must remain frozen at last year's level.

"I can tell you now that you don't have a prayer," answered board president M. Howard Rienstra. Rienstra, 3rd Ward city commissioner, added that he was wearing his commission hat when he made the statement.

Rienstra, who spelled out the hiring

guidelines of CETA, told the group that community reaction to the use of federal funds for rehiring agency employees could become adverse if economic conditions reach the level prevailing in Detroit.

There have been "near riots" at U.S. Labor Department gatherings in Detroit over the use of CETA funds to rehire 1,400 city and social action employees, he said.

"The community there argued that the money should be used to hire people who have no jobs at all," Rienstra added.

Sketching a brief history of the use of federal job funds here, Rienstra said they were first utilized two and one half years ago to rehire 83 city employees, including policemen and fire-fighters, who had been laid off for a month. That was accomplished with Emergency Employment Act monies, of which CETA funds are an extension.

Under CETA requirements are that the cash be used to hire persons who have been out of work for a considerable length of time, Rienstra said. But the guidelines of the Department of Labor do not make that restriction, Rienstra said.

"We've always been told that we were not supposed to do it," Rienstra said of the use of CETA funds for rehiring persons with jobs.

But the contrast in Department of Labor guidelines and those in the Congressional Record allow the practice to continue, he explained.