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2-19-75

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Don R / Bill Walker.

Is this accurate?

76-392

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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

M. BARRY MEYER, CHIEF COUNSEL AND CHIEF CLERK  
 BAILEY GUARD, MINORITY CLERK

February 17, 1975

The President  
 White House  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

From the beginning of the legal services fight, the interest of congressional conservatives has been well known and often misunderstood. Few of us objected to providing legal aid for the truly needy, but most of us saw a grave danger in creating an agency free of any controls and using Federal dollars to promote radical causes. First, the House Steering Committee and then, the Senate Steering Committee indicated their concern to the Nixon and Ford Administrations.

In both the House and Senate, Floor debate was led by Steering Committee members.

The House Committee brought up legal services as one of its major concerns during a private meeting with President Nixon.

The chairmen of both groups at that time, Carl Curtis and Lamar Baker, met with Mr. Nixon about vetoing the conference report.

At the first meeting of the Senate Steering Committee with you, Mr. President, legal services was discussed and assurances of a conservative board were given.

In a subsequent telephone conversation with me, you again restated your desire to see a conservative board created.

When Jack Marsh and Max Friedersdorf attended one of our Committee meetings, there were further assurances of consultation over vacancies which had occurred in the original list of nominees for the Board.

I recite these things to point out the numerous times that the two Steering Committees expressed their strong feelings about the legal services program and the numerous times that this administration (and its predecessor) gave us assurances that our views would be considered.

Now I am told that five new names to the board have been submitted and that its ideological disposition has shifted decidedly leftward. Additionally, when my staff learned that the new nominees had been chosen, it took several days of repeated telephoning to find out the names. Meanwhile, other members of our Committee, aware of these assurances, kept calling my office inquiring about

the names. Finally, a member of the White House liaison staff did identify the nominees.

My purpose is not to heap more burdens upon your shoulders, but rather to illustrate that assurances of cooperation often fall on deaf ears around here. What counts in the final analysis is a real show of cooperation. As a former colleague on the Hill, I'm sure you know what I mean and how important it is to those of us who want so badly for the Ford Administration to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James A. McClure', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

James A. McClure  
United States Senator

McC:kR

LS  
**United States Senate**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*James A. McClure*  
U.S.S.

The President  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 19, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL WALKER

FROM: JERRY H. JONES 

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

-- Is this accurate?

Would you please follow-up with the appropriate action and coordinate your response with the Congressional Relations Office. Your response should be submitted to this office.

Thank you.

cc: Don Rumsfeld  
Jack Marsh  
Max Friedersdorf

FEB 19 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES

FROM: DICK CHENEY 

Jerry, attached is a note that ought to go to Bill Walker concerning the Legal Services Board from Senator McClure.

Make certain that Marsh and Friedersdorf are plugged in on it too. It looks like our consultation process broke down on this one.

We need an answer to both the letters from McClure, and both letters ought to go to the Congressional Shop as well for whatever action is deemed appropriate.

Attachment