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Jim

I plan to keep these
here.

Trudy

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 28, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JACK MARSH *JM*
FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *M.F.*
SUBJECT: Joint Session of Congress Address on New York City

Both John Rhodes and Bob Michel returned to the city last night from the recess and I discussed with both of them the possibility of a Presidential address to a Joint Session of Congress pertaining to New York City.

Rhodes was adamantly opposed to an appearance before a Joint Session and also voiced loud objection to any statement on NYC at this time.

He believes that such emphasis on the New York City problem would be a signal that the President is prepared to accept some form of assistance to the city.

Bob Michel was very negative on a Presidential address to a Joint Session.

Michel voiced the opinion that this would elevate the issue unreasonably and be counterproductive if the President delivered an essentially negative speech.

Bob Michel and Rhodes expressed the viewpoint that they believe the President is positioned well on this issue at the present time and they can see no advantage for the President or those who support his position by the address to a Joint Session.

Rhodes objected strenuously to any statement at this time and indicated that he wanted to be kept advised of any plans to do so and be consulted on Presidential initiatives in this area.

He indicated to me that he would likely try to call the President today to discuss this subject.

I indicated to both of them that we would keep them closely advised on any and all developments on New York City.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JACK MARSH

FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

SUBJECT: Joint Session on New York City

Senator Hugh Scott is opposed to the President addressing a Joint Session of Congress to deliver his recommendations on New York City.

Bill Seidman and I talked with the Senator late this afternoon and he objects for a number of reasons:

1. It would give critics on both sides of the issue an opportunity for a field day.
2. The President would be admitting that New York City is a national issue and its default could cause a ripple effect.

The President would be escalating the issue and at the same time giving a basically negative recommendation.

Addressing a Joint Session of Congress should be saved for a truly national or international event.

Scott cannot see any gain from such an appearance and thinks the over-all impact would be adverse.

Senator Scott also said that he could see the advantage of the President going to New York City to deliver such an address if it was focused on his concern for the persons who might be deprived of just services because of mismanagement.

Senator Scott thinks the President needs to show great compassion for the people of New York City, because at the present time the middle class voters of New York City are perceiving the President as a person who hates New York City.

Minority Leader John Rhodes

Unable to reach because he and Mrs. Rhodes are driving back from Connecticut and not available until later tonight.

Bob Michel

Flying back to Washington and not available until later tonight.

Secretary of the Treasury Simon

Bill Seidman reports that Secretary Simon strongly opposes the President addressing a Joint Session.