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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 1, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JACK MARSH

In reference to the Monday morning GOP Leadership Meeting, it is my feeling that it is important in this meeting to focus carefully and separately on the situation in both Houses of Congress. The parliamentary procedure and the approach may be quite different in the House and Senate.

I discern a difference of opinion on how to handle this issue between Carl Albert and Mike Mansfield. Carl's reluctance to make any commitment, I believe, stems from the fact that he did not want to be in the position of participating in a meeting that struck an agreement on which he could not deliver insofar as the Caucus is concerned. I also got the impression he did not want to find himself in the position of having to explain such an agreement to the Caucus.

It appears more certain that we can sustain in the Senate with an excellent chance in the House. Since the matter will come up first in the House, I think the meeting should focus first on that vote with an underlying assumption that the Senate vote is our safeguard. I recommend the following agenda:

1. House report on vote count by Rhodes and Michel.
2. Senate report and vote count by Scott and Griffin.
3. House strategy session to include:
  - a. Leadership recommendation on the proposal to delay.
  - b. Votes picked up over weekend.
  - c. Strong Republican possibilities that may change.
  - d. Democratic possibilities (mention Freshmen breakfast).
  - e. Make assignments in reference to contacts to be made.



Note: I strongly urge a determined effort be made to get aboard every Republican vote that we can in order to demonstrate Party unity.

4. Discussion of the Senate strategy and vote assessment and assignments following the House pattern.
5. Discussion of the Democratic economic and energy program.

A question you will have to address, particularly in the Senate if the vote is not sustained in the House, is whether there should be an actual vote on the veto or whether you should agree to a delay of a Senate vote. I believe that Scott and Griffin, particularly the latter, can give you the most useful advice on this.

McFall reported to me that if you went with the 60 day delay, there was really no reason to vote in the House on the veto override. I would suggest you task John Rhodes and Bob Michel and other House leaders to explore this with their counterparts on the Democratic side. Tip O'Neill could be a key in trying to work out a bi-partisan veto strategy.

Another question is there seems to be some confusion which relates to timing. Press accounts indicate that you are to get back to Mansfield and Albert on Monday with some type of response. If you tip your hand too much on Monday in responding to Mike, it downgrades your Tuesday announcement. On the other hand, you may go forward with your formal announcement on Monday. If the press reports on a Monday response are inaccurate, then I feel this should be corrected.

Finally, at the conclusion of the leadership meeting, it might be useful to summarize the course of action to be pursued to make certain there is a consensus and everyone is aboard. I suggest several minutes be devoted to a press plan so that when the participants are interviewed, their statements are generally consistent and do not give away what your decision will be.

