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June 23, 1975

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ABOLISHES OFFICE ON  
D.C. AFFAIRS

Has the Administration abolished the White House staff office for liaison with the District of Columbia?

GUIDANCE: The Administration, through a long range plan to give greater control back to the District of Columbia, did transfer responsibility of D.C. liaison to the White House office of Intergovernmental Relations over a month ago. As you know, the office of Intergovernmental Relations has, as its principal responsibility, liaison with state and local governments.

Now that the District of Columbia does have its own elected mayor and city council, we feel the decisions in the District of Columbia should be made by elected officials. However, we recognize that because of the extremely large Federal presence in D.C., it is obvious that there will be a special relationship with D.C.

When was the actual liaison office abolished and why weren't D.C. officials apprised of the transfer?

GUIDANCE: The Domestic Council had responsibility for D.C. liaison, and this was a fulltime job. Now that D.C. does have their elected officials, it was felt that liaison could be best handled through the office of Intergovernmental Relations and so during the past month or two, there has been a gradual phase into this organization. The original responsibility was with the Domestic Council, and that responsibility is still with the Domestic Council, but in a different office.

Jim Falk, the Associate Director of the Domestic Council for Intergovernmental Relations, discussed the transfer with Mayor Washington last Tuesday when the Mayor was here for the Presidential signing of the Summer Youth Bill. It is my understanding that Mr. Falk and the Mayor discussed the transfer and Jim Falk told the Mayor that he would like to meet with him and his staff at his convenience to discuss the best ways of maintaining a good relationship between the District of Columbia and the White House.

Does the Administration plan to name a Federal Administrator as provided in the Home Rule Act?

GUIDANCE: The Administration is looking at this whole area of the Federal enclave. However, no final decisions have been made.

JGC

March 17, 1976

SUBJECT:

D.C. REPRESENTATION

What is the White House reaction to the D.C. representation bill (H.J. Res. 280) and a substitute bill currently being debated on the House floor?

(Note: While 280 would seek a constitutional amendment to give the House the same representation it would have if it were a State, the substitute would provide for only one representative in the House and a later decision re the Senate representation)

GUIDANCE:

Since this amendment is a legislative branch consideration (and since Joint Resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution are not presented to the President for his approval), we have not taken a position on this proposal.