

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

ps

September 14, 1967

EYES ONLY

**MEMORANDUM FOR Honorable Robert S. McNamara
 Secretary of Defense**

In my memorandum dated August 29, 1967, establishing the Task Force on Vietnam Veterans under your chairmanship, I pointed out that it would be helpful if your Task Force report included a discussion of the costs and benefits of the proposals made by the Task Force.

In addition, we would like your report to reflect clearly the Task Force's judgment about relative priorities among the proposals. In order to obtain the explicit judgment of your Task Force on program priorities, the report of your Task Force should include a pricing of the individual program proposals which you recommend, and a summary of the total cost. In addition, we would like you to develop two alternative program packages, detailing individual program proposals within the two target figures given below.

(In millions; fiscal years)

1968 base	\$ 500 (not including DOD programs)
1971 add ons:	
-- Alternative A	200
-- Alternative B	700

These figures are to cover both new legislation and expansion of existing programs above the fiscal year 1968 base as adjusted for uncontrollable built-in increases. The two target figures selected do not reflect a judgment about desirable program levels in the area being considered by your Task Force. Rather, they have been chosen primarily to provide information about the Task Force's judgment on relative priorities underlying the Task Force proposals.

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We would like you to use the pricing table which is attached for the above purpose. Where possible, it should be accompanied by a highlight explanation giving pricing and program assumption for each alternative package and as much explicit information as you can on the expected benefits from each specific program in a package.

If you need further information about the programs covered in the base, please feel free to contact Fred S. Hoffman at the Bureau of the Budget. The Bureau of the Budget participant on the Task Force can also help in obtaining additional information.

Where Task Force recommendations involve expansions of existing programs (as opposed to new legislative proposals) each agency representative should be prepared to tell the Task Force -- and the Task Force report should indicate (in precise tabular form):

1. The extent to which specific recommendations about that agency's program for fiscal 1969 exceed the budget request of the agency to BOB. By "budget request" is meant the set of agency recommendations which fit within the planning figure for the 1969 budget given to each agency by the Budget Bureau.
2. If the program recommendation exceeds the agency budget request (at the BOB planning level) the agency's judgment as to whether this item has higher priority than the items included in the agency's budget request.

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President

Attachment

cc: Secretary Wirtz
Secretary Gardner
Administrator Driver
Attorney General Clark
Secretary Weaver

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

Director Shriver
Director Schultze
Mr. Levinson

(Attachment sent to each individual)

AUG 29 1967

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR

Honorable Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense

In accord with our earlier discussions, this memorandum establishes under your chairmanship a Task Force on Vietnam Veterans for 1968, with William Driver as Vice Chairman. The Task Force should include representatives from the Departments of Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, Justice, Housing and Urban Development, the Veterans Administration, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Bureau of the Budget, and may be broadened at your discretion. Larry Levinson will be the White House Representative on the Task Force.

May I suggest that you discuss with the heads of these agencies individuals to represent them on the Task Force. As you know, we should have the finest possible talent on this Task Force.

This special Task Force effort reflects our deep concern about the adequacy of existing programs relating to the transition from military to civilian life for returning Vietnam veterans. We hope to develop, with your help, a strong and imaginative program for consideration by the second session of the 90th Congress.

We would like you to conduct staff studies on the ideas and proposals listed below as well as to review the proposals that will shortly be submitted by the Veterans Administration Advisory Committee. It should be understood that these are merely ideas resulting from our discussions and that no decisions have been made with respect to any of them. Furthermore, you are encouraged to add any other proposal which you feel is worthy of consideration.

Expanded efforts to provide training and education for servicemen while in service and immediately thereafter.

- Special military programs to qualify servicemen for higher education, such as concentrated "catch-up" courses at end of tour of duty or during a period of voluntary extension for this purpose.

- Call upon universities and colleges to provide one-semester, probationary catch-up programs for ex-servicemen who could not qualify for admission under existing criteria.
- Establish an education program for career non-commissioned officers, including expanded opportunities for high school and graduate study.
- Special military programs to qualify servicemen for meaningful civilian employment.
 - . Vocational and on-the-job training on military posts or by contract with outside institutions.
 - . Special training centers on military posts.
- Allowing use of GI benefits to pay for Federal training programs such as MDTA.
- Greater use of existing Federal education and manpower programs for servicemen (during and immediately after tour of duty).
- . The entire structure of veteran's benefits should be reviewed with an eye toward the transition problem.
 - Job preferences
 - Tax advantages
 - Interest rate subsidies
 - Preference for Federal programs
 - Special unemployment benefits
 - State bonus and job preferences
 - Educational benefits
 - Special training benefits.

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3

- . Extend minimum wage protection to all military personnel.
- . Steps to end all discrimination against veterans.
 - End discrimination in housing.
 - . Consider whether it is legally possible to proscribe by executive order such discrimination when veterans return to civilian life.
 - . Consider desirability of legislation to prohibit discrimination against veterans seeking housing after they have left the service and the need for criminal sanctions to enforce such a prohibition.
 - End discrimination in employment.
 - . Consider need for legislation to remove restrictions on admission to apprentice programs which now bar returning veterans.
 - . Consider need for criminal sanctions against anyone discriminating against a returning veteran seeking employment.
- . Steps to encourage more Negroes to attend the Service academies.
 - Consider possibilities of encouraging enlisted Vietnam veterans to go on to the Service academies.
- . Recommend steps which should be taken to permit more rapid promotion of junior officers.

We would like you to submit your report by October 16, 1967. It should contain a detailed outline with the following information:

1. A short statement of the legislative or administrative proposal.
2. A detailed statement of the problem giving rise to the proposal.

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

3. A statement of related on-going programs, including costs, the people whom the programs reach, and the inadequacies of the present programs.
4. A discussion of the proposal, with emphasis upon the pros and cons and the costs and benefits of implementation. (Of great importance here is a detailed statement of the arguments and factual material which can be advanced in support of the proposal.)
5. A statement of the alternative proposals which were considered and the reasons for rejection thereof.

In addition, it would be helpful if you would prepare a summary of the report (not to exceed 10 pages) which contains the following information for each major administrative or legislative proposal:

- Salient features of the proposal.
- Brief statement of benefits of implementation.
- Brief statement of costs of implementation.

Ten copies of the report should be submitted to me and five copies to the Director of the Budget.

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President

bcc: Secretary Wirtz, Labor
Secretary Gardner, HEW
Attorney General Clark, Justice
Secretary Weaver, HUD
Administrator Driver, Veterans Administration
Director Shriver, OEO
Director Schultze, BoB

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

August 15, 1967

TO: Joe Califano

FROM: Jim Gaither

Attached is a memorandum to McNamara establishing the Task Force on Vietnam Veterans to look into the transition from military to civilian life, fair housing, etc.

Budget reluctantly concurs, but is concerned about the relationship of this Task Force to Driver's study of veteran's benefits.

I suggest that you call McNamara to clear this with him before sending and that I call Driver to explain the relationship between the two studies.

Do you want me to call Driver?

Yes _____ No _____

AUGUST 14, 1967

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

In the next 12 months more than three-quarters of a million young men and women will leave the Armed Forces and return to civilian life.

These veterans have served their country well. It is only right that their country serve them as well.

This Administration has provided, through expanded veterans benefits, sound and substantial financing for advancing the education of those who have served in the Armed Forces. I have asked this Congress to further strengthen the educational provisions of the new G. I. Bill, and the Congress has responded. However, not all discharged veterans choose to go back to school, and most -- including many who do go to school on their return -- will be looking for work. I intend to help them find it.

Over the past year, almost 600,000 veterans reentered civilian life. The majority found work without trouble. But almost 100,000 of these fine Americans had difficulty obtaining employment. They were without work for an average of 9 weeks and received some \$30 million in unemployment compensation.

We are going to do better for our veterans in the coming year.

During the past four months the Federal-State public employment service system has operated a pilot program in Pennsylvania which through personalized service to veterans has increased their employability.

I have today directed the Secretary of Labor, in cooperation with the Secretary of Defense, to extend this activity nationwide in order to assure each returning veteran the greatest help possible in obtaining meaningful, rewarding employment. We can do no less for our Nation's sons and daughters who have done so much for us.

The law now requires that the Federal-State operated public employment service give priority job placement assistance to veterans. I am directing that this assistance be extended beyond the confines of the employment office, and that each and every returning veteran be personally contacted by telephone or by personal visit by a representative from one of the Nation's 2,200 public employment service offices in order to ascertain his or her particular job needs.

Each veteran will be offered individually tailored job finding assistance, employment counseling and testing, and referral to training or any other service which will help him obtain employment promptly.

I have asked to be kept advised on the progress of this effort.

Many efforts are now being made to assure a smooth transition to civilian life for the returning veteran.

The Department of Defense through its "Projection Transition" is undertaking, in cooperation with other government agencies, to give returning service personnel needed training before discharge so they will be employable in civilian life.

The Labor Department assists veterans in exercising their reemployment rights under the law, and the Veterans' Administration handles their educational and home loan benefits.

MORE

What we are launching today will supplement these other services to our veterans. This new effort will be advantageous to the Nation as well as richly deserved by those it is designed to help.

Returning veterans are a prime source of needed manpower. They are an answer to increasing labor shortages. Their average age is just over 22 years and more than 80 percent have a high school education or better. Many have acquired job skills in the service which are badly needed by the civilian economy.

This personalized employment assistance will serve the dual purpose of helping to fulfill our obligation to those young men and women who have served us so well while at the same time meeting a national economic need.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

*New file
1968 TF
"McNamara TF
on Vietnam
Veterans"*

AUG 14 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GAITHER

Subject: Task Force on Vietnam Veterans

As you requested, we have reviewed the attached memo and have the following comments:

- (1) We agree that many of the areas to be studied warrant analysis in depth.
- (2) We are concerned that a significant part of the task force charter substantially overlaps that given the VA Administrator - review the entire range of veterans benefits. This could lead to confusion and misdirected effort and could undermine the Administrator's report and recommendations.
- (3) Two task forces on veterans benefits could lead to obvious difficulties with congressional committee jurisdiction (Teague v. Rivers) and with veterans organizations.
- (4) Three separate areas of study are involved:
 - benefits for servicemen while in service (largely Defense)
 - transition benefits for the discharged veteran needing help (several human resource agencies: HEW, ~~OD~~O, Labor, VA, Justice, etc.)
 - comprehensive benefit system for all veterans (largely VA).

We are especially concerned that the report and recommendations of the task force (whatever arrangement is adopted) be of a nature which will make maximum use of existing general purpose civilian programs and will not radically restructure the present institutional arrangements

for providing veterans benefits.

(5) We would hope the task force would carefully consider two other problems:

(a) how to keep any special transitional benefits needed for veterans of Vietnam from being extended to other servicemen both retroactively and prospectively, and

(b) how to prevent the Administration's anti-discrimination measures for all minority group members from being undercut if special preference is given to Vietnam veteran members of that group.

We recommend that the draft memo be revised to reflect the above considerations. It is important that both Secretary McNamara and Mr. Driver fully understand the relationship between the two assignments. In any event, we would strongly urge that Mr. Driver be consulted with respect to this new task force before it is formally established.



Wilfred H. Rommel
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Attachment

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

AUG 14 1967

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~~(Signed)~~ Wilf Rommel

Wilfred H. Rommel
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Attachment

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 10, 1967

TO: Wilfred H. Rommel

FROM: James C. Gaither *JCG*

It would be helpful if we could have your comments on the attached by the close of business today.

August 10, 1967

TO: Wilfred H. Rommel

FROM: James C. Gaither

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*Draft memo on T.F. on
Vietnam Veterans*

DRAFT

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR Honorable Robert S. McNamara
 Secretary of Defense

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May I suggest that you discuss with the heads of these agencies individuals to represent them on the Task Force. As you know, we should have the finest possible talent on this Task Force.

This special Task Force effort reflects our deep concern about the adequacy of existing programs relating to the transition from military to civilian life for returning Vietnam veterans. We hope to develop, with your help, a strong and imaginative program for consideration by the second session of the 90th Congress.

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Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President

bcc: Secretary Wirtz, Labor
Secretary Gardner, HEW
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Secretary Weaver, HUD
Administrator Driver, Veterans Administration
Director Shriver, OEO
Director Schultze, BOB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

You might want to
file this appropriately.

I forgot to pass it
on to you when Joe
sent it back.

Matt.

File M^CN 77
on Viet Vets

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1967

FOR Joe Califano
FROM Matt Nimetz
RE Civil Rights Bill for Vietnam Veterans

Handwritten:
Matt.
Good
Make sure you get
this in character of
~~civil rights for~~
Vietnam Vets
Thank you
Q

It occurred to me that there is a precedent for the sort of civil rights statute for Vietnam veterans we discussed at our meeting last Saturday.

In 1940, Congress enacted as part of the Selective Training and Service Act a section which required that a returning veteran be reinstated at his old position at the same wage level and with the seniority and other rights (e.g., pension, insurance) as if he had remained on the job through the war (Sec. 8, 50 U.S.C. 459; *Accardi v. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company*, 383 U.S. 225).

It seems to me that if Congress, under the war powers, can require private employers to rehire veterans and can set their compensation, pension, and seniority levels as a means of protecting old jobs, it can certainly insure that veterans have an equal opportunity to get new jobs as well as a new place to live. The purposes are the same: (1) to induce men to volunteer for military service; (2) to maintain high morale in the service; (3) to facilitate readjustment from military to civilian life; and (4) to reward those who fought for their country.

I do not think there will be much difficulty preparing a strong rationale for this type of civil rights legislation.

RECEIVED
JOE CALIFANO, JR.

1967 AUG 8 PM 4 02