

JULY 27, 1967 - 6:10 p.m.

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SENATE COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMEN

Vice President  
Sen. Anderson  
Sen. Ellender  
Sen. Hayden  
Sen. Magnuson  
Sen. Bible

Sen. Long  
Sen. Pastore  
Sen. Fulbright  
Sen. McClellan  
Sen. Jackson  
Sen. Eastland

Sen. Hill  
Sen. Monroney  
Sen. Randolph

Sen. Jordan  
Sen. Mansfield

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALJuly 27, 1967  
*rec'd 27/7/67*

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

**Tom**

FROM: Tom Johnson

Attached are the notes of the Meeting of the President  
with the Senate Committee Chairmen on July 25, 1967.

Attending the meeting:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| The President      | Senator Fulbright |
| The Vice President | Senator McClellan |
| Senator Anderson   | Senator Jackson   |
| Senator Ellender   | Senator Eastland  |
| Senator Hayden     | Senator Hill      |
| Senator Magnuson   | Senator Monroney  |
| Senator Bible      | Senator Randolph  |
| Senator Long       | Senator Jordan    |
| Senator Pastore    | Senator Mansfield |

The meeting began at 6:10 p. m. It ended at 8:00 p. m.

DETERMINED TO BE AN  
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING:

BY Dut ON 12-11-81

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By cc 11-7-83

Meeting of the President on July 25, 1967, at 6:00 p.m., with  
the Senate Committee Chairmen:

Senator Anderson  
Senator Ellender  
Senator Hayden  
Senator Magnuson  
Senator Bible  
Senator Long  
Senator Fulbright  
Senator McClellan

Senator Jackson  
Senator Eastland  
Senator Hill  
Senator Monroney  
Senator Randolph  
Senator Jordan  
Senator Mansfield  
Senator Pastore

The President opened the meeting by saying that he had nothing specific in mind for the meeting. The President said he was "grateful for the experience, judgment, and friendship of those of you who head the Senate Committees. "I want to give you a chance to make any comments you wish."

Senator Ellender reported that the Food Stamp Program was stalled. The Senator said he understood there was a proposal to take the Food Stamp Program from Agriculture and put it in Poverty. The President and Joseph Califano said they knew of no plans. Senator Ellender said that there were problems in the House with the REA legislation.

The President then discussed appropriations, he said: "The Budget is in bad shape." The President said the deficit could be as high as \$28 billion. He said it was necessary to do the following:

1. Get a tax bill
2. Get the appropriation bills passed so the President can see what can be cut.
3. Cut down Defense expenditures.

Senator Magnuson discussed the Participation Sales Certificates.

Senator Jackson said that he expected the Armed Services Committee would save a "good chunk of money" on reductions in military construction. There was a discussion of the necessity for a civilian pay bill. The President said that a billion dollars could be saved by not passing this measure.

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Senator McClellan: "You have got to have a civilian pay bill." He said if you have a civilian pay bill there must be a military pay bill as well."

Senator Ellender said the D. C. Committee would give the President a good crime bill.

Senator Long said that the Finance Committee had cleared the Interest Equalization Bill. He said the Senate must wait for the Social Security measure, and needs time on the Presidential Election Campaign Bill.

Senator Fulbright then discussed the Foreign Relations Committee. The Senator said: "Mr. President, what you really need to do is to stop the war. That will solve all your problems. As you know, Secretary McNamara will be testifying tomorrow on military assistance. There is much objection to this, including by the Chairman. On the Inter-American Development Bank, I expect that we will mark it up on Thursday."

Senator Fulbright continued: "I think there is a change in attitude on the war. Senator Lauche changed his mind and said that he thought the bombing should be stopped in the North. The Vietnam war is a hopeless venture. Nobody likes it. There was a very serious outbreak on your stand in the Congo situation in the Committee. Vietnam is the root of many of your troubles. I don't want to speak for my colleagues, but I think this is in the minds of Senator Russell and some of my colleagues. Vietnam is ruining our domestic and our foreign policy. I will not support it any longer."

"I expect that for the first time in 20 years I may vote against foreign assistance and may try to bottle the whole bill up in the Committee."

Senator Pastore asked, in light of Senator Fulbright's comments on Foreign Assistance, how does the President feel about foreign aid?

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The President said we have \$3.2 billion in the Foreign Assistance Act. He said he thought this was the minimum which is necessary to perform our obligations in other parts of the world. The President said he would not object if the Congress specified the countries it did not want to help.

The President said he felt the Congo was a success. He said he thought his advisors had talked with Senator Fulbright and Russell on the matter.

The President said if the Congress wants to tell the rest of the world to go to hell, that's their prerogative. But the President said he thought the Punta del Este conference was useful. "I can hear the speeches in the Senate now if there are other Cubas around the world. For a country with a GNP of \$800 billion and a budget of \$175 billion a request for \$3 billion in foreign assistance is small. They are underdeveloped countries. Maybe you don't want to help the children of India, but I can't hold back."

The President said there is a question as to what we should do in Indonesia. "Should we try to do something for them?" The President said, "I believe foreign assistance is wise, but I can understand the depression and distress of all of you on this matter. I would hate to see you kill this bill. Maybe Bill Fulbright has better justification for his position than I have."

Senator Jackson said that if we deny aid to Indonesia then we are backing off all we stand for in that area. He said Indonesia is a nation of many millions which has fought off Communism and which needs our help to rise to a position among the nations of the world.

The President said he didn't want to get into defense of his position because, "I understand all of you feel like you are under the gun when you are down here, at least according to Bill Fulbright."

Senator Fulbright said, "Well, my position is that Vietnam is central to the whole problem. We need a new look. The effects of Vietnam are hurting the budget and foreign relations generally."

The President said, "Bill, everybody doesn't have a blind spot like you do. You say don't bomb North Vietnam on just about everything. I don't have the simple solution you have."

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"We haven't delivered Ho yet. Everything which had been proposed to Ho has been rejected. As far as stopping the bombing in North Vietnam, I am not going to tell our men in the field to put their right hands behind their backs and fight only with their left.

"General Westmoreland told me when he was here that the bombing is our offensive weapon. And it will be just like tying his right hand behind him if we were to stop it." The President said the bombing would give protection to our ground troops. The President said that Ho Chi Minh hasn't moved one inch from his statement which was published earlier this year.

The President continued, "If you want me to get out of Vietnam, then you have the prerogative of taking the resolution under which we are out there now. You can repeal it tomorrow. You can tell the troops to come home. You can tell General Westmoreland that he doesn't know what he is doing."

Senator Mansfield suggested that the discussion might proceed to governmental operations.

Senator McClellan said that his Committee would not waste the President's time and would move ahead on its program as quickly as possible. Senator Jackson discussed bills before the Interior Committee.

Senator Eastland discussed the Safe Streets Act and said that his Committee would take up the Anti-Riot Bill next week. Senator McClellan said it was his opinion that the anti-riot bill will pass.

Senator Hill discussed the Education Bill and the fact that the Committee has been delayed by Senator Morse, who as Chairman of the Committee has been involved in other matters. He said that Senator Morse's activities on the rail strike has prevented the Senator from working as much as he would like to on this.

Senator McClellan said, "On the riots, we have sown the seeds, and now we are reaping them."

Senator Magnuson said that the feeling among the Committee Chairmen was one of support for holding the line on the civilian pay bill. But the Senator pointed out that once the bill reaches the floor, we are in for trouble. He said he had never known a civilian bill not to pass once it reached the floor.

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Senator Pastore said that the President's proposal for a tax increase should be sent to the Senate before the civilian pay measure. He said this would be good strategy in order to keep the pay bill in line.

There were brief reports on their committee's activities by Senator Randolph and Senator Jordan.

The President briefed the Senate Chairmen on the riot situation and the activities up to that time. The President said that FBI Director Hoover is interviewing people now and he is on the scene with his best men and his best facilities.

The President pointed out that Governor Romney said that there was "reasonable doubt." The President reviewed the history of the riots on Monday.

Senator Mansfield said, "There was a very partisan set of speeches by the GOP policy committee. He told the President he was glad that the story of the riots had been presented. Senator Mansfield said "the fault was Romney's."

Senator Jordan said he could not understand the coordination of the riots. He said the FBI could not find a connection. He said there were riots in 20 American cities last night.

The President suggested that the Senate might consider a five man committee to study the riots. He said it would be good to have a 3 to 2 split and that Senators Hart and Dirksen along with Senator McClellan and Senator Eastland would be appropriate members.

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