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AUGUST 2, 1967 - 12:09 p.m.

Cabinet Meeting

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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August 2, 1967
6:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ^{T.} Tom Johnson

Attached are the notes of your Cabinet Meeting
on August 2, 1967.

Those attending were:

The President	Ambassador Arthur Goldberg
The Vice President	Joe Califano
Secretary Rusk	Doug Cater
Secretary Fowler	Phillip Hughes, Budget Bureau
Deputy Secretary Nitze	Tom Johnson
Attorney General Clark	Jim Jones
Postmaster General O'Brien	Harry McPherson
Secretary Udall	Charles Maguire
Under Secretary John Schnittker	Mike Manatos
Secretary Trowbridge	Sherwin Markman
Secretary Wirtz	Director Leonard Marks
Secretary Gardner	John Roche
Secretary Boyd	Walt Rostow
Gardner Ackley	Barefoot Sanders
Governor Farris Bryant	Sargent Shriver
	Marvin Watson

The meeting started at 12:09. It ended at 1:50 p.m.

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Determined to be an
administrative meeting
By M/E On 1-30-80

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Meeting began: 12:09 p.m.

Meeting ended: 1:50 p.m.

NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING
WITH THE CABINET

IN THE CABINET ROOM, August 2, 1967

I.

The President asked the Vice President to open the meeting with a report on the activities of the President's Council on Youth Opportunity. The Vice President's report follows:

"With approval of a \$75 million supplemental appropriation for the Office of Economic Opportunity, federal support of summer youth programs totals \$660 million.

Employment

The youth opportunity campaign as of August 1 has stimulated employment of more than one million young Americans.

- 871,886 jobs through the private sector (this figure reflects job pledges by employers and job openings reported by state employment services through July 19 (adjusted downward to reflect an estimated 20 per cent duplication)
- 102,000 Neighborhood Youth Corps employees (this is in addition to 175,000 regular year-round corpsmen)
- 35,000 additional summer hiring of disadvantaged youngsters by federal departments and agencies

-- 1,008,886 Total summer hiring

This year there are 415,000 more 16-21 year olds looking for work than there were a year ago. Despite this, unemployment in this age group has been reduced from 16.4 per cent a year ago to 15.2 per cent for June, 1967. Most of the gains occurred in white employment; unemployment among Negroes in this age group increased from

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26 per cent in June, 1966 to 27 per cent in June, 1967.

Recreation

Mobile recreation equipment is turning streets, parking lots, and vacant lots into "instant playgrounds" in nearly every major city. Entertainment on portable stages is being presented in the ghetto neighborhoods. Free jet plane rides and other contributions by private industry have become part of the recreation effort.

A major breakthrough has come about in the use of military facilities for camping opportunities. Revised regulations issued by the National Guard Bureau authorize the use of Guard facilities and equipment by youth groups created under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. This was first implemented in Arkansas, where youngsters are attending a camp using National Guard facilities with the assistance of an OEO grant. Communities are beginning to realize the recreation potential for inner-city youngsters available on nearby military reservations. Increased requests for additional military cooperation next year are already indicated.

The Boy Scouts have placed renewed emphasis on providing camping for inner-city boys; 9,700 additional disadvantaged youths are attending scout camps this summer. Similar reports are coming in from other organizations.

Education

A major effort has been made to keep such school facilities as gymnasiums, libraries, and shops open during the summer. Many innovative uses of funds from Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act have been reported, and 1,900,000 youngsters are participating in these programs. An additional 464,680 children are in Head Start classes.

The cities

The Council's major effort has been made in large metropolitan areas. Staff members have made personal visits to 33 major cities to offer assistance to Mayors in setting up local Councils

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on Youth Opportunity and in carrying out effective summer programs. Follow-up contact has been maintained and efforts are already underway to involve these councils in the Stay-in-School campaign.

A special effort for the summer has been made in Washington, D. C. About 18,000 needy youngsters have jobs, an increase of 50 per cent over last year. A wide-ranging recreation and summer enrichment program is in operation, and 35,000 youngsters are benefitting directly from a 2.4 million dollar summer grant from OEO.

Without exception, summer jobs are the most critical need in every city. The Council has taken a major role in sharing ideas on how to meet this problem. Encouragement and support of the approach taken in Omaha has resulted in the adoption of this city's program by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce for national application next year. A Job Fair was presented with Council support last month in Houston; over 1,100 youngsters were hired on the spot for the balance of the summer.

There is a need to begin now with budget planning for next summer in order to secure earlier funding for seasonal programs. This is especially needed because of wide variations in dates of school closings throughout the country."

II. Report by Attorney General Ramsey Clark

The Attorney General pointed out that it was important to know that only 5,000 to 6,000 Negroes were involved in the Newark riots out of a total Negro population of 220,000. "The vast majority of Negroes were out of the riots and not sympathetic to it." The Attorney General said the administration must give support to responsible Negro leaders and must seek to isolate the radicals. The Attorney General said that a racial war can only be avoided by disciplining of ourselves. He cited two incidents: In the first, a man was found with 37 bullet holes in his back and 2 in his front. In the second, 200 rounds of ammunition were pumped into a tenement when there was nothing more than a rumor that a sniper was in the building. As a result, a pregnant mother of several children was needlessly slaughtered.

The Attorney General said that violence is set off by tension in the city being high and by a spark which ignites the riot. He said the higher the tension, the less the spark needed to set it off.

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The Vice President said there were 52 cities which were potentially about to explode. There were 10 last night with high tension and 8 with "intense psychological warfare" such as Washington. There is much fear and panic throughout the country.

The Attorney General said the Justice Department has no hard evidence of a conspiracy or of overall organization. There is no nationwide network as far as the Justice Department is aware. The Attorney General cited statistics which show that of all those arrested only a small number crossed state lines.

Secretary Gardner cautioned against use of these statistics. The Secretary said that those who organize or incite riots generally are the last to be picked up and arrested. He said he would not use these statistics as any guide to determining whether or not there was organization or a conspiracy involved.

The President said : "There may be more to this than we see at the moment."

Attorney General Clark said there is an underlying pattern of environment which creates the riots. He pointed out that in the higher income areas there have been no riots. He pointed out there was only a 10% involvement by non-Negroes in Detroit. There was a 5% involvement by non-Negroes in Newark.

The Attorney General said that the Crime Control Act is the best thing the administration has to fight this problem now. He said we do need a gun control bill. National Guard training must be improved.

Attorney General Clark said the President's Commission is an excellent one. He then gave a chronology of the Detroit riots beginning with his call from Governor Romney and ending with the time when the troops were on the scene in Detroit.

Secretary Rusk asked is there a remedy or legal way to take care of Stokely Carmichael and H. Rapp Brown. The Secretary mentioned a ticker item in which Carmichael threatened the lives of Secretary Rusk, Secretary McNamara and the President. Attorney General Clark said:

-- We have followed this closely

-- They are getting intense notoriety overnight

-- As of July 31 the Internal Security Division does not have a basis for a case.

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-- If convicted, it is likely that the case against Rapp Brown would be reversed by the Supreme Court in light of recent decisions.

Secretary Rusk asked "what about a man who called for the assassination of the President?"

Attorney General Clark said we will "have to see on this."

The Vice President said he had met with a number of mayors in Boston, all of whom were most concerned about this. They want to know why we cannot do something." The Vice President then discussed recent articles headlined "HHH criticizes Congress." The Vice President read the actual text of his speech. Secretary Gardner said, "Don't retract it." The President said, "Don't repeat it."

Secretary Fowler said it is not the end of the road when the Attorney General says that people like Rapp Brown and Stokely Carmichael can't be prosecuted under Federal law. "I think someone in a responsible position must encourage State and local officials to enforce the law. It is incredible to think you can't make a case."

The President then read a letter from columnist Stewart Alsop to Tom Johnson and 2 letters from militant Negro leaders which said that the moderate Negro leaders such as Roy Wilkins aren't "the voices of the ghetto." These militants urged the President speak directly with them. The President asked the Cabinet for their comments on these letters.

Ambassador Goldberg made the following points:

-- This situation is reminiscent of the labor situation in the 1930's.

-- There were the same types of statements about the labor leaders then.

-- There were young Turks who came out then, but with the exception of Walter Reuther, most of them vanished down the drain.

-- NAACP is stronger than ever today.

-- What happened in the 30's was worse than Detroit.

-- We have our troubles, but solutions do not come from night sticks.

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-- A little needle like the Vice President gave to the Congress is necessary.

-- All of this can't legally be placed on the back of the Federal government.

-- We need to put responsibility back where it should be, with local authorities.

III. Report from Postmaster General O'Brien

The Postmaster General said that each Cabinet member had before him a list of target dates for legislation. He stressed that action is desired on these pieces of legislation by Labor Day. He said, "This is our little bible among us."

The Postmaster General stressed the very significant need for passage of the D. C. Reorganization Plan. He said we need the help of all the Cabinet. The measures need bi-partisan support. The measure would give the President the opportunity to bring in the best man in the country to run the city of Washington.

IV. Report from Secretary Rusk

Secretary Rusk touched on the following points:

a. Foreign Aid

-- The situation is getting rough in Congress.

-- We expect a good bill from the House to make up for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's damage.

-- We need all the help we can get.

b. Keisinger talks:

-- Keisinger has a number of problems on his mind

-- Keisinger has some strong personalities to live with in his government.

-- The U. S. needs to talk with him about sharing the burdens of the world.

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-- The rest of the world can no longer take the U. S. people for granted.

-- The big question today is "what are others doing themselves?" He pointed to the planned withdrawal of British forces in the Far East and German plans to reduce their troop levels.

c. DeGaulle

The Secretary said it is important for all of us in the senior levels of government to be careful what we say about DeGaulle. This is an issue which is being posed in France by Frenchmen.

V. Report from Ambassador Goldberg

The President praised the Ambassador for his success at the UN during the recent Middle East crisis.

The Ambassador made the following points: We did well in the UN because we have good sound policies. These policies are:

1. That all countries should live and let live.
2. That there must be arms limitations in the Middle East
3. That peace is indivisible
4. That we push for progress with the refugee problem
5. That there is a need for economic reconstruction in the area.

-- The Israelis put in hard work, particularly with the African nations. Latin American solidarity was important.

-- The more Latin American countries can be involved in world problems, the better.

-- The Soviets were rough in their attempts to persuade other nations to go along with their position. As a result they lost support.

-- The U. S. sought to make its policies clear through a "low key approach."

-- The Ambassador said he told the Soviets, "If you stop lying about us, we will stop telling the truth about you."

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-- From May 18 to July 21 there were 22 Security Council Sessions and 34 General Assembly Sessions --- day and night.

-- Goldberg received 36,000 letters. He said they advised him he "either talked too long, or talked too often, or talked too sharply or talked too mildly, or didn't talk the way they wanted."

-- The Ambassador said there is a "state of animated suspension" and that he expects that we will be back at the Security Council later this month with a regular Assembly Session on September 1.

-- The Ambassador discussed developments with the Soviets. He said he thought it was significant that the Soviet Foreign Minister talked for the first time about their own troubles with extreme elements inside the Soviet Union. The Ambassador said he was reminded of a passage from a book which read, in part:

"People who have only enemies don't know what complications are; it is only when you have friends that you have problems."

The Ambassador said: "Thank goodness, the Soviets now have friends."

The President said that everybody recognizes the potential explosion inside our cities. The President asked each Cabinet member to think of ways to divert another Detroit or Newark. He urged assistance for the D. C. Reorganization plan and pointed out that the Poverty Program is the most important one we have in Congress. "We have improved the lot of a good many people. But we still have millions left." The President said we have to rally the forces and do the best we can to avoid a cut.

VI. Report from the Office of Economic Opportunity Director, Sargent Shriver

-- The morale at OEO is good.

-- The hearings on Capitol Hill were excellent.

-- There is a rumor out that Congress will react against OEO and make them the scapegoats of the riots.

-- There have been virtually no poverty workers involved in the riots.

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-- Of 12, 148 Community Action Program workers, only 6 have been booked.

-- Of 35, 000 ghetto workers in New York only 4 have been picked up.

-- It is essential to keep the moderate South with us on the Poverty legislation.

Secretary Wirtz agreed with Shriver on the morale and the legislative picture. He said that the statistics on the number of young people who have been arrested, however, made him believe that the programs haven't gotten to the hard core kids. It appears from the statistics the programs deal with those who are easiest to reach, not the toughs and the ones who are causing the riots.

The President asked each of the Cabinet members to go back to his department and take up the appropriation request. The President pointed out that only 3 of 13 appropriation bills have reached the White House and it is necessary to accelerate the target dates on these measures.

The President then reviewed the fiscal picture, pointing out that a budget deficit of \$28.5 billion is possible. The President discussed the breakdown which resulted in the potential \$28 billion deficit and said that this could be reduced to \$18 billion with the 10% surcharge on corporate profits and personal income along with the sale of \$2 billion in participation certificates, and \$1 billion off the civilian pay bill.

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