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FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM JONES *J*

SUBJECT: Congressional Democratic Leadership meeting - Tuesday,  
October 31, 1967

Meeting convened: 5:35 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 6:45 p.m.

Attending were: Speaker McCormack, Congressmen Carl Albert and John Moss, and Senators Mansfield, Russell Long and Robert Byrd.

The President opened the meeting asking if there was anything to report on the Continuing Resolution.

Senator Mansfield said that they met today.

The President asked about the D. C. Bill.

Senator Byrd replied that with ~~luck~~ it will be on the President's desk by Saturday next week or November 15 at the latest. "I guess you want the full limit of the federal payment of \$70 million?" Byrd asked.

"Yes" the President said.

The President asked Senator Long about the Social Security Bill.

Long said he hoped to have it reported Thursday and said he will need a few more days to draft it up. "We voted today that any additional increases we have will be paid for by additional taxes beginning in January, and I think this will help it." Long said.

The President asked if the House will buy it.

Long said he felt they would.

The President asked about the Poverty Bill.

Speaker McCormack said they are trying to get the Rules Committee to meet Thursday and bring up a rule on Friday that will give debate on Monday and Tuesday. McCormack said Colmer (William) has agreed to this. McCormack said otherwise we have the practical problem of next Tuesday being an election day in many cities and many Members will be gone and thus debate would have to be held over until the next week.

Carl Albert said he has talked to all Members of the Rules Committee and they say they will report it out Thursday and the Republicans have no objection. Albert said they will start reading the Bill for amendments on Wednesday.

The President asked if we can finish it during the week.

Albert said "I hope to but it will take pushing. I hope to clean it up next week." Albert said we have not done bad this year having passed a lot of bills. "But they (Republicans) are going to try to get the Poverty Bill and make this symbolic that we have not lived up to our promises," Albert said the Committee gave the Administration what was asked for on the button. He said there were some few changes such as giving more authority to local elected officials.

The President said that he learned a long time ago that a project is worthless unless a city or a community shows some interest and financial participation. The President said he did not recommend the change but he has found in the past that it works. "We'll have a cleaner program if Congress passes it that way."

Carl Albert said there are some other areas where there will be problems. For example, a Job Corps trainee costs about \$7500 per year and the Republicans are going to fight that. He said Mrs. (Edith) Green has recommended a \$4500 ceiling. Bill Kelly says he cannot live with that but he will try. Albert also said there will be an effort to cut the appropriations for OEO down to \$1.2 billion.

The President said "that would be the worst thing yet. I hope they don't cut the program too much. I've been to two Job Corps camps and both are doing a good job." The President said Governor Connally had established a good Job Corps program in Texas.

Albert said the Job Corps in Oklahoma was also well received although the State program has not been good, primarily because of the Republican Governor and his appointee.

The President pointed out that the Administration will be blamed if the Poverty Bill gets defeated. "I am as strong for it as anything we have proposed," the President said.

The President then read a list of 21 bills upon which action is needed by the Senate before adjournment and 19 bills which are pending before the House.



Speaker McCormack and Carl Albert both urged Senate action on the Riot Control Bill.

The President directed Barefoot Sanders to talk to Attorney General Ramsey Clark in order that the strongest constitutional bill could be passed.

The President then talked about some of the protestors from the peace march of October 21. Of the 256 who allegedly burned their draft cards, a substantial number were crazy people who had previous history in mental institutions according to the FBI reports. Also, most of the cards supposedly burned were xeroxes or photostats or facsimiles of the draft card and therefore no prosecution is possible. The President noted that he did not want to be like a McCarthyite, but this country is in a little more danger than we think and someone has to uncover this information.

Senator Mansfield commented on some of the pending legislation in the Senate saying that out of the 21 pending, there is a good possibility that 6 or 7 will pass this week. He said the Civil Rights Bill is very difficult because of the filibuster and this will probably hold over until January.

Carl Albert said the Foreign Aid Appropriations will be reported Tuesday. The Product Safety Commission is awaiting a rule. Albert said the retail lobby has really gotten to the Members on the Truth in Lending Bill. A lot of people have told Albert that the Administration should back off from the Sullivan Bill.

On the Tax Bill, Speaker McCormack said that Wilbur Mills won't report it out until he gets the votes to pass it.

Albert said "Mills told me he would not report it out until the climate in the country is ready for it - whatever that means."

The President said it may be too late by next January. It may have gone through the ceiling by then. The President said he visited with Secretary Fowler today and Fowler is very worried. The President said he told Fowler to go to Congress and find out what it will take in cuts or otherwise to get it.

Fowler told the President that Martin (William McChesney) said this is a very dangerous situation.

Mansfield said he thinks the President should keep pounding away for a tax bill. "You should keep your skirts clean but I don't think we can pass it until next year."

The President said he does not want to be critical of Congress, "but I owe it to myself and to the country to candidly say what the effect of this will be."

Albert recommended that the President should get all the Appropriations Bills and the Poverty Bill before making further statements on the Tax Bill.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p. m.