

6/11/68

TO: Marie Fehmer

FROM: Barefoot Sanders

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Resume of Leadership Breakfast, Tuesday, June 11, 1968

The Leadership Breakfast today was attended by Senators Mansfield and Byrd, Speaker McCormack, Congressmen Albert and Boggs, the Attorney General, Mike Manatos, Joe Califano, and myself.

Senator Byrd asked about the Pueblo. The President discussed it briefly and said essentially that there was nothing new to report.

The President also discussed the progress of the Paris Peace Talks and the situation in South Vietnam and pointed out that the effort of the enemy was to overthrow the South Vietnamese Government.

The President discussed the Tax Bill Conference Report and the progress of the House count on it.

Boggs mentioned seeing the picture of the President with Governor Rockefeller.

The President discussed the general political outlook -- said that he had the impression that there was dissatisfaction with the "ins" and thus the climate favors the Republicans. He cited pollsters Lou Harris and Quale. The President said that the Administration has failed to communicate with the public on the Vietnam War and social program accomplishments.

The President discussed the establishment of the Commission on Violence -- why he created it, its membership, and dangers society faces from demented people. The Attorney General discussed the Violence Commission and its function -- to tell us who are the violent and why they are that way.

At the President's request, he gave some of the background on Sirhan and Ray.

The Attorney General discussed the need for better gun legislation -- 6700 people murdered last year with guns. We need a federal law on interstate shipment of all guns. Albert asked and the Attorney General and the President answered -- about inconvenience to the law-biding gun owner. It will be minimal.

Byrd asked how many of the 6700 were killed with long guns. The Attorney General said 29%. The Attorney General says that he believes we must come to federal registration and state licensing. Mansfield pointed out that our legislation does not ask for that. True.

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The President emphasized the need for speedy passage of the Joint Resolution giving subpoena power to the Violence Commission.

Albert and Boggs asked the Attorney General about the anti-Resurrection City Bill. He reported on the status of the Camp and gave his thoughts on future strategy. Just about everyone joined in this discussion. The Speaker provided the background of the Bill in the House.

The President discussed the make-up of the Secret Service Advisory Commission.

The President went over the lists of legislation on which action is needed and emphasized particularly Foreign Aid and Housing. I provided the Leadership with copies of these lists.

The meeting broke up about 10:15 a.m.



Barefoot Sanders
June 11, 1968

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