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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVE PARKER

FROM: PETER J. BRENNAN

Per your request, I made contact late last night and early this morning with labor people throughout the country. I tried to get a good geographical distribution plus people I thought would give us an honest viewpoint and not just what we wanted to hear because they are friends.

Frank Fitzsimmons: Fitz, of course, is one of the President's greatest allies. Fitz felt that the speech was very positive. He thought the newscasters "shafted" him after the speech, however. He feels that the President's foreign policies have been outstanding but because of being bogged down by some of the internal problems at the White House that the domestic policies have fallen by the wayside. Fitz, of course, is deeply concerned about the energy problem and the effects on his union.

John Bowden (Jacksonville, Florida): Bowden thought the speech was magnificent. He was glad he finally talked openly about Watergate -- felt it was too long in coming. He was glad to say that he was going to cooperate with the Judiciary Committee. He liked the stressing of world peace and the fact that he would be serving for eight years.

Bowden has also suggested that the President come to Florida for offshore nuclear plant groundbreaking ceremony. This would be a good follow up on his mentioning of nuclear plants, plus Florida is friendly. (This is the group that Julie spoke to several months ago.)

Nick Buratovich (New York City): Nick is a Business Agent for a local union. He felt the speech was very timely. Some of the people watching TV with him stood up and clapped when the President said that one year of Watergate was enough. He said that none of us have haloes and the President has kept the ship on course in spite of all the people trying to do him in. He feels that the wrong impression is being made about labor and the impeachment issue. Meany is becoming senile and the rank and file do not agree with him about impeachment. He wishes a labor drive could get started backing the President.

* Brubeck, Ed
* Elia, Carmen
* Scumaci, Francis
* Calhoun, Jesse
* East, William

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Ed Brubeck (Indianapolis, Ind.): Brubeck is a Business Rep. for Building Trades Council. Brubeck felt it was a good speech considering the many problems facing the President. He feels that people are much more concerned with inflation/recession than they are with Watergate. He feels that just saying that there will be no recession is not the answer -- we need more evidence. People without enough money can't be convinced. They have serious problems in getting supplies for building. It is hitting the whole country and will have disastrous effects on the economy.

Brubeck felt that he should have emphasized more the fact that there is no more draft -- most people have forgotten this. He feels that the President's foreign policy is excellent but much more has to be done on the domestic scene.

Carmen Elio (from Boston but called from Puerto Rico): Elio is a pension advisor for Wainwright. He talked to many of the people in Puerto Rico that he was with at the time of the broadcast -- mostly local government people. They generally thought it was a good speech. They felt it was a better SOTU than they had heard for many years -- even before Nixon. They thought the President sounded and looked better than the past few times they have seen him. They feel he should be much more visible to the country. Elio also stressed the fact that the draft should have been mentioned more emphatically.

He feels we do have an economic problem of major proportions, but he feels the President took the "high ground" in his speech. He feels that mentioning of Watergate was good but it won't just disappear as we all would like to see it. He said the consensus was that the speech was a plus. His sincerity came across -- especially when he said he would serve his full eight years.

He doubts that the speech will have any great effect on the market -- except perhaps a temporary one. Talking about the Arabs releasing oil might have small effect. But inflation is our real problem -- and words will not correct this. Our domestic policies have got to become more publicized and explained to the people around the country.

Francis Scumaci (Pittsburgh, Penna.) Scumaci is a union representative whose son gave one of the seconding speeches for the President at the Republican Convention. He felt that the President "stood tall". He feels that labor is wrongly judged on the impeachment situation because Meany just screams louder and has more money to back him up along with his publications.

Jesse Calhoon: Calhoon has been a strong supporter of the President's. He feels that the energy crisis is having a severe effect on the country. The foreign policy has been outstanding. He also mentioned domestic policy as being a major problem -- we need more done for the people.

William Fast (Portland, Oregon): Fast is a Business Agent for the Maritime Union. Fast felt the issue of peace was a little prolonged but he felt that it was a good speech. He said he was glad to hear about the opening of the pocketbook for transportation and education because our domestic policies have not done enough. He feels we have curbed money too long and held back spending. He felt the Alaskan Pipeline should have been mentioned and the fact that many programs never got off the ground that would have helped in this present crisis -- SST for example. He hopes the part about gas rationing is true.

Fast said he felt that people did not get bored during the speech -- he held their attention which is not always the case in this type of speech.