

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 13, 1970

Re: The Domestic Council and Staff

Dear Bryce:

As a result of the Camp David meetings and a series of presentations and conversations at San Clemente, some staff decisions have been made. I now would like to propose some procedural options which ultimately should be decided by the President.

I will appreciate your early response to this letter so that I can include your views on these proposals at the time they are submitted to the President.

The Domestic Council process:

- * Plenary sessions of the Domestic Council will be chaired by the President. In his absence, the Chairmanship pro tempore will rotate alphabetically among the Council members.
- * Sub-committees of the Council will be chaired by one of the sub-committee members designated by the President.
- * Plenary meetings will be called by the President. Any Council member may request a meeting on any issue.
- * Sub-committee meetings will be called by the sub-committee chairman.
- * Each Council member is requested to immediately inform Ken Cole of the name of his alter-ego staff member whom he designates as the key Domestic Council contact for his Department. This man will also act with Ken, other Council staff and working groups in meeting preparation and follow up.

ACTION
ITEM

Should be
Vice President;
only if both
Pres & V.P.
are absent.
should this
apply.
AH

Lamar
Alexander

* Plenary Council meetings will be preceded, whenever possible, by staff meetings to brief the Domestic Council members' alter-egos on the issues on the agenda. Where appropriate, the alter-egos will meet after a Council meeting has been held for follow-up assignments.

* Council agendas will be deemed confidential unless classification is specifically waived.

* All Council meetings, whether plenary or sub-committee, must be totally off-the-record.

* The policy development process will generally include these steps:

(1) Initiation of a policy study by the President.

(2) Alternates:

*Domestic Council plenary discussion of the issue

or

*Assignment to designated sub-committee

(3) Staff work:

*Statement of the problem and agreed facts

*Identification of range of solutions (e.e. private sector, mixed private-government, local only, limited Federal)

*Options re policy to govern Federal government participation in solution

*Options re Federal programs to effectuate policy

*First year and subsequent goals

Methods for evaluation

*Estimates of cost

(4) Final preparation and adoption of policy study report by Domestic Council sub-committee.

(5) Review by entire Council if required.

(6) Submission to the President for decision.

although study may be suggested by any Council member

- * Staff work described will be done by staff group composed of Department, Agency and possibly private-sector people chaired by a Domestic Council staff member.

Domestic Council staff personnel will work on topics as assigned, on a case basis. Personnel will not be permanently assigned to a subject-matter area or group of Departments. All inquiries may be directed to Ken Cole (Assistant Director) who will be able to direct questions or information to project assignees, in the first instance.

- * The first meetings will be held as follows:

CALENDAR

Preparatory meeting for your alter-ego

✓ July 20, 1970
10:00 a.m.
Roosevelt Room (tentative)

Domestic Council

✓ July 22, 1970
10:00 a.m.
Cabinet Room (tentative)

Follow-up meeting for alter-egos

Same
(upon adjournment)

The agenda will be:

10:00 - 10:30 Discussion and questions re procedure

10:30 - 10:45 Introduction of staff and alter-egos

10:45 - 11:55 Policy Issue:

✓ What should be Administration policy re Regional Commissions, the problems of planning assistance, and the operation of Federal grant programs.

THIS WOULD
BE A BIG
CHANGE FOR
KROGH
WHITAKER
CASIDEN
ETC.

Yes but
must
include
a Dept.
Congressional men
who will be
in charge
of
insulation
with
appropriate
Congressmen
on the
inside.
and will
follow through
if legislation
emerges
try try to
see if
is inserted.

Final material on the policy issue will be forwarded to you shortly. I have attached a copy of the President's memo which initiated the study of this issue, and an example of the form of Domestic Council Study Memorandum we intend to use in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John D. Ehrlichman', with a large loop at the start and a horizontal stroke at the end.

John D. Ehrlichman
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

The Honorable Bryce Harlow
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Attachments