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general policy file

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1970

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL

SUBJECT: "The Nixon Administration's Approach to Government"

One of the fundamental purposes of the first three meetings of the Domestic Council was to define the principles of the Nixon Administration's approach to government. These principles, once promulgated by the President, can be used in developing policy options and evaluating present programs.

Attached is a draft Domestic Council staff paper which attempts to synthesize into a series of principles the views expressed during the first three Domestic Council meetings.

Before presenting these statements on the Nixon Administration's approach to government to the President, we would like to have your written comments which should include an indication of your feelings with regard to the principles outlined here as well as any additional principles which you think should be set forth. It would also be helpful to have your thoughts as to whether or not you think there is merit in the President setting forth these principles publically via a message or statement or if they should just be used as an internal government working document which would serve as a framework for future policy and program decisions.

internal working document.

We would appreciate having your comments in writing by Saturday, October 24.

Thank you for your cooperation.

order was held staff for later!

[Signature]
Kenneth R. Cole, Jr.

Deputy Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

Attachment

OK

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THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S

APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT

During the first three meetings of the Domestic Council a series of statements have evolved which portray the Nixon Administration's approach to government.

1. Policy decisions and the administration of programs should be diffused, while accountability is more strictly maintained.
2. The increased policy and administrative responsibilities proposed for state and local governments require that federal programs support efforts to strengthen the capabilities of state and local governments.
3. The States and therefore the Governors should be the basic entity with which the Federal Government works; the Federal Government should work with substate general purpose governments as necessary and in coordination with the State government.
4. General purpose state and local governments are accountable to the people; therefore, Federal programs should support

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and deal with the elected officials of general purpose units of government and reduce their support of quasi-public organizations not directly accountable to the people.

5. State governments should exercise their responsibility for the planning processes within their borders; Federal programs should recognize and support this responsibility.
6. General purpose county and local units of government should, as coordinated by the State, exercise responsibility for project planning; Federal programs should recognize and support this responsibility.
7. Federal field operations should be organized and conducted in a manner which projects the idea that the operation is an important part of the community and not something imposed from Washington -- regional officials should be representatives of the region.
8. The Administration will seek to eliminate as many different programs as possible through consolidations and terminations.
9. More Federal activities should be shifted into the private sector either through indirect incentives or through contracting out.

10. Problem solving should follow the lead of systems analysis and begin by identifying goals, then working back to find the program which most effectively and efficiently achieves those goals. We need to build into each program a method and criteria for evaluating program performance.