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23 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Mr. Kenneth Sprankle, House Committee on Appropriations, on the Letter to Congressman William L. Dawson Concerning Reserves - 22 April 1958

1. At the time we secured the Director's signature on the letter to Congressman William L. Dawson, dated 16 April 1958, it was indicated that a briefing of Mr. Dawson was desirable to distinguish the Agency reserve from the type of reserves which were the subject of Mr. Dawson's original inquiry. It was proposed that this procedure be discussed with the Bureau of the Budget and with Congressman Clarence Cannon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

2. After clearance with the Bureau of the Budget, the matter was discussed with Mr. Sprankle. He concurred that the Agency reserve was not the type of reserve contemplated in Mr. Dawson's request. Concerning the advisability of briefing Mr. Dawson on this matter, Mr. Sprankle commented on the efforts which the staff and the Chairman of the Subcommittee had made to restrict knowledge of the Agency budget. Under all the circumstances, while not wishing to tell the Agency what it should do, Mr. Sprankle clearly indicated that he felt any briefing of Mr. Dawson unless some question was raised by him was unnecessary. He further indicated that he was sure Mr. Cannon would feel the same way. Mr. Sprankle said he believed the letter from Mr. Dawson indicated activity of the Government Operations Committee staff and that our proposed answer would probably settle the matter.

3. Under the circumstances I believe it sufficient that we have discussed the matter with the Committee staff and believe that if Mr. Dawson ever does raise a question we can deal with the problem at that time. Therefore, no further action will be taken and Mr. Saunders and Mr. Houston concur.

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