

LEGISLATIVE INTERDEPARTMENTAL GROUP MEETING

October 9, 1973

Time and Place: 2:00 p.m. - 3:55 p.m. - Roosevelt Room

Subject: Various Legislative Issues

Participants:

Chairman	William Timmons	State	Marshall Wright Dr. Curtis Tarr Stan Anderson
Defense	Jack Marsh Donald Floyd	ACDA	James Malone
CIA	Jack Maury	USIA	Edward Hildago
AID	Matthew Harvey	NSC	John Lehman James Barnum
OMB	James Frey	WH	Thomas Korologos

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Following is a summary of the conclusions reached at the LIG Meeting of October 9, 1973 to consider various Legislative issues:

1. War Powers

Marshall Wright reported that there has been little change in attitudes on this Bill since it was approved by Senate and House conferees on October 5. The most objectionable part of the measure remains the requirement that the President end the commitment of US armed forces to foreign combat within 60 days unless Congress authorizes the action. All agreed that the Bill, as presently written, would be subject to veto. The State Department is preparing a draft veto message and will have it ready by the weekend.

2. USIA Authorization

This Bill is "struggling along" with little change over the last month. USIA is working on a veto message, which should be ready by the end of the week. Mr. Korologos will take a Whip check this week to see how we stand. Each of the LIG members was asked to look over the prepared talkers and hand-outs to determine if they have any problems and report back their views to John Lehman by the end of the week.

3. State Authorization Bill

Senate and House conferees were scheduled to meet on this Bill at the same time the LIG was meeting. Sections 10 (Overseas Base Agreement) and 13 (Executive Privilege) are totally unacceptable, and it was agreed that the Bill would be subject to veto if Sections 10 and 13 remain in. During the course of the meeting, Marshall Wright received a phone call informing him that Sections 10 and 13 were removed in conference, thus eliminating the problem.

4. OPIC (Overseas Private Investment Corporation)

It was agreed that this Bill is generally satisfactory, although efforts to prohibit reconstruction financing in Southeast Asia are worrisome. Mr. Timmons asked Stan Anderson to work with the OPIC people and attempt to curtail these efforts. Stan will also cast about for a "tiger" to help push the administration's position.

5. Defense Procurement Authorization Bill

John Marsh was congratulated for the favorable outcome of the Senate version of this measure, which was approved on October 1 and

now goes to conference. Mr. Marsh believes there is a fairly good chance of getting the Aspin Amendment in the House version knocked out in conference, but is less confident about the recomputation of military retirement provision. On manpower reductions, Mr. Lehman explained that a 20,000-man cutback is the most that we could live with, and that efforts should be made to delete the out-year provision. (The conferees approved the Bill on 11 October. Recomputation was killed, as was the amendment that would have slashed US forces overseas by 110,000 by December 31, 1975).

6. Jackson-Nunn

Mr. Lehman expressed dismay that the feeling on the Hill is that nobody in the administration opposes this amendment. The State Department believes it should be deleted and that it is not fixable. The LIG members decided that the best tactic at this point would be to try to isolate the issues for the conferees, and that the working group's recommendations would be floated as a compromise.

7. MASF

Defense wants the House figure rather than that of the Senate. Mr. Timmons asked Jack Marsh to take a reading of the conferees' attitude toward the major issues and to report back as soon as possible.

8. MASF Transfer to MAP

John Lehman explained that the House version on this measure is totally unacceptable and would be subject to veto if it remains as now written. The LIG members were instructed to make it very clear to the conferees that the House version is unacceptable and to make every effort to have it cleaned up in conference.

9. Foreign Assistance Act

Mr. Lehman listed the priorities on this Bill, now in conference. They are: 1) Southeast Asia reconstruction (getting levels raised to \$550 million); 2) MASF transfer to MAP; 3) deletion of Section 13; 4) approval of Section 506; 5) reflow authority; 6) excess defense; 7) MAP levels; 8) disaster relief; and 9) public safety. All agreed to work on the conferees to secure passage of the above, in that order.

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10. Byrd Amendment

Marshall Wright/^{made}a plea that all LIG members work for repeal of this amendment, which is ridiculous, and, in fact, counter-productive.

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