

MEMORANDUM

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
E.O. 12958, Section 1.8

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

By *Malak* NARA Date *9/25/09*
CONFIDENTIAL

To Malak

July 14, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:

H. R. HALDEMAN

FROM:

FRED MALEK *Fred Malek*

SUBJECT:

Action Plan for Strengthening the
Bureau of Labor Statistics

The purpose of this memo is to seek your approval of a plan for strengthening the BLS. The three major components of the plan are replacing Geoffrey Moore as Commissioner, transferring Harold Goldstein, and conducting further research on the advisability of transferring other top BLS officials.

GEOFFREY MOORE

Moore is serving a term appointment that does not expire until 1973. However, John Dean has rendered an opinion, concurred in by Justice, that there is a solid legal basis for removing him, despite the term. Therefore, we could ask Moore to resign and back it up if he refused by firing him. Initial search efforts indicate that we could readily find a suitable replacement for Moore and be able to effect the replacement in two weeks. Our initial pass at replacement candidates is shown at Tab A.

HAROLD GOLDSTEIN

Harold Goldstein is the Assistant Commissioner for Manpower and Employment Statistics and is a career GS-16. As such, he cannot be terminated but can be transferred to another post of equivalent grade and responsibility. We could work with Bob Hampton to develop several alternatives of a non-sensitive nature. A decision could be reached here and conveyed to Goldstein inside of two weeks, with the transfer effected a week or two thereafter.

OTHER OFFICIALS

Other top officials in the BLS include the Deputy Commissioner, Ben Burdetsky, and Associate Commissioners Leon Greenberg, Peter Henle, and Donald Keach. Determining the desirability and feasibility of firing or transferring any of these men will require further research. This research would take about two weeks and would require the assistance of the Labor Department.

RECOMMENDED PLAN

Based on the above, I recommend the following action steps:

- ✓ 1. You send me right away the memo at Tab B with a copy to George Shultz.
- ✓ 2. I will direct the recruiting team to polish the list of candidates for Moore's replacement. We will interview some of these and be prepared with a final slate of candidates 10 days after receiving your go-ahead. *but ck w/ Shultz + Colson*
- ✓ 3. I will work with Hampton to determine the most appropriate positions to transfer Goldstein to. This also can be ready in 10 days.
4. I will pull the above together for your approval and then meet with Shultz and Hodgson to *+ Colson*
 - Select Commissioner candidates for Hodgson to interview and choose from.
 - Gain Hodgson's agreement to ask Moore for his resignation as soon as the replacement is selected (i. e., within a week). Hodgson would try to get Moore to resign quietly.
 - Select the best alternative post for Goldstein and gain Hodgson's agreement to transfer him after Moore's replacement is announced.
5. We will follow up with further research to determine whether other BLS officials should be removed.

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Implementation of the plan outlined above should materially strengthen the responsiveness of the BLS. At the same time we are apt to incur bad press from the action even if the Moore and Goldstein moves can be accomplished peacefully. There is also likely to be a short-term morale problem within

BLS. My feeling, however, is that the temporary bad press and morale problem are small prices to pay for quickly transforming the BLS into a responsible and effective unit of this Administration. Accordingly, I recommend you approve this plan and sign the attached memo.

Approve  _____

Disapprove _____

See me _____

Attachments