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MEMORANDUM FOR: LYN NOFZIGER
FROM: TOM CHARLES HUSTON
SUBJECT: Attacking Democratic Funds

With reference to Bob Haldeman's memorandum to you of December 29, 1970 -- I am concerned that decisions regarding revisions of the campaign spending law are likely to be made by the policy-types without adequate input from politically-minded folks. Bob, in his memorandum, indicated that he wanted us to get together to work out the timing and specifics of a plan to open up on the Democrats at the time the spending-limitation measures go up to the Hill. I would think we should expand upon this mandate and get involved in the initial discussions of what we are going to propose since this will largely determine the parameters of any attack we might make upon Democratic funding operations.

What is your thinking on this?
MEMORANDUM FOR:    MR. LYN NOFZIGER
FROM:             H. R. HALDEMAN
SUBJECT:     Attacking Democratic Funds

Please continue with your ongoing campaign to discredit the Democratic funds to whom the liberal and left wing givers contribute. I agree that this should be an ongoing thing and will depend on you to follow up.

However, I think that we may want to step up our attack on some specific areas when the spending limitation bills come up on the Hill. In this regard, please get together with Tom Huston and work out the timing and specifics on this plan.

cc: Mr. Huston
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1971

FOR: John Brown
FROM: Lyn Nofziger

Not surprisingly, you are a day late and a dollar short.

A statement went up to Senator Dole the day Mr. O'Brien made his comments. If Senator Dole has not yet used it, I can assure you that the National Committee will begin a sustained attack on Larry O'Brien beginning Monday February 8.
MEMORANDUM FOR BOB HALDEMAN
FROM LYN NOFZIGER

As far as I know we have no stated policy on the aging and the aged. It appears we are waiting until after the White House Conference nearly a year from now.

This means we have a year to go before we can begin to run a p.r. campaign aimed at the elderly.

It means we have a year in which the Democrats can seize the initiative leaving us to trot along behind, picking up the road apples.

If we had a stated policy—it wouldn't have to be long; or if we could use as a policy guide the report of the President's Task Force on the Aging, which I am told is a pretty good report, we would have something to work with.

I am told there was a major fall-off of the over-60 vote last year because elderly Republicans refused to vote.
Criticism of Administration Growing Among

BY PHILIP SHANDLER

The once-a-decade White House Conference on Aging is faltering, adding to grumblings among organized oldsters about the Nixon administration.

"Task forces set up to draft recommendations for the November conference - the second such year and the first since 1961 - began meeting the first week in February.

But participants unexpectedly were told that technical papers promised for their deliberations were not available, and one task force resolved not to meet again until it had the data.

And last week, John B. Martin, conference director and President Nixon's special assistant for the aged, sent the several hundred participating paragraphs "vetoed adjourn." The papers were ready, further meetings scheduled this month and next.

2 Other Developments

The latest action deepened unhappiness produced by two other developments in recent weeks:

The President's budget message, with apparent cuts in programs for the elderly, and reports of administration plans to reduce Medicare benefits while boosts fees.

Officials of both the labor-oriented National Council of Senior Citizens and the more conservative American Association of Retired Persons indicated, in interviews, increasing apprehension about prospects for aid to the elderly.

But Martin said the planning lags would not disturb the conference schedule. Such parleys in the past also were marked by charges of mishandling but were productive nonetheless, he observed.

Initiative Predicted

The budget data has been misinterpreted, Martin said. And he predicted that a presidential health message next week would display "interesting initiatives" for the aging.

Martin, commissioner of the Administration on Aging within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was named in October 1969 by the President to direct the conference. The parley had been mandated by Congress a year earlier.

Martin put together 20 task forces, drawn from groups concerned with the problems of the elderly, and 14 technical committees to review the commissioned technical papers.

At the first of the planned series of task force meetings, Martin announced that the expected technical papers would not be ready until November. He provided summaries.

Later he said some of the papers were sufficiently completed to be ready for meetings next month.

"Voted to Adjourn"

"We decided there was no point to our trying to develop policy recommendations without data to back them up, so we voted to adjourn until November," said John 2. Schneider of Columbia, Md., delegate of the National Association of Life Underwriters to the task force on retirement.

That meeting was held despite a feeling by some participants that "there's no reason to meet at all," Schneider, because of a story that morning in The New York Times.

The story quoted "public health sources" as saying the administration planned to both increase fees and cut benefits of Medicare, the program of health care for the elderly. The President's budget, released 10 days earlier, anticipates a saving of $303 million in the fiscal year that starts July 1, it noted.

Agency Funds Cut

The budget also shows a drop from $33.6 million to $25.8 million in funding for the Administration on Aging (of $186 million authorized by Congress); and a cut in funding for community programs from about $9 million to $5 million.

In addition, the administration has requested a 6 percent increase in Social Security benefits, in the face of a 10 percent boost voted by the Senate.

Together, the actions "reveal the low priority the White House places on the needs of the elderly," charged Nelson H. Cruikshank, president of the 3-million-member National Council of Senior Citizens, which has links with the AFL-CIO.

Bernard E. Nash, executive director of the rival American Association of Retired Persons (which he describes as "white glove") said the cuts were disturbed by planned cuts in the so-called "Foster Grandparents" program of care for the elderly by children from institutions. The program has been "universally acclaimed," he said.

"Lack of Experience"

As for the White House conference, the preparation reflects "at best a lack of experience and ability," Cruikshank charged.

And a participant who asked not to be named said, "I can't believe the White House can't get these papers finished and printed in time if they had a real sense of urgency - even if they had to be mimeographed."

"Either there's something in the papers they don't like or they're dragging this thing out so they'll be able to say we're working on the proposals right before the election in November," he asserted.

Martin said, he, too, was disappointed that the technical papers were not yet ready. Reviews by the technical committees of draft documents were completed two weeks ago, but re-writing was required for all but one or two, he said.

"Still on Target"

Martin said the conference preparations are still "on target.

The original schedule called for task force meetings in four groups here and in Chicago this week and again next month.

Other conferences to develop recommendations are scheduled at the state level in May and June. But these will not require the use of the anticipated task force recommendations, he said.

As for the administration's budgeting for the elderly, Martin said $5.8 million of the asserted $7.8 million cut for the AOA has been shifted to other HEW accounts, "which I still will be able to sign off on."

Another $1.6 million, he said, represents funding in the present budget for the conference which does not have to be replenished in the 1972 budget.

The $4 million cut to communities will be offset by a rise from $10.5 million to $14 million for area-wide projects.

And while the Fc parents program was reduced from $10.5 million to $7.8 million in the fiscal year that starts July 1, it is not expected to be reduced by further budget cuts.

Mandated by "Lack of Experience"

But Martin said the planning for the once-a-decade White House Conference on Aging was mandated by "Lack of Experience". The conferences were planned to both week and again next month.

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Inmiration Growing Among the Elderly

papers were to be next month.

were not. We had no reason to develop the papers without the help of the administration. The $4 million cut in grants, $500,000 to $5 million, if Congress approves, Martin noted.

The disparity between what Congress authorized for the AOA and what the administration requested is "traditional," he added. And the Foster Grandparents program would be cut off from $10.5 million to $7.5 million. It is also determined by "other factors," he said.

As for the administration's budgeting for the elderly, Martin said: "We're working on the proposals right before the election (in November 1972)," he asserted.

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