

December 3, 1970

FOR JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN

The events of the past 48 hours, most notably the working out of a Ribicoff-Bennett Amendment, makes me think we can come out winners on FAP.

Either:

(1) The bill will pass, or

(2) It will come so close, and there will be so much support from such diverse quarters, that it will be clear the President almost pulled off a miracle, and may yet do so in the next Congress.

I think we need an Emergency Ad Hoc Standing Committee, operating out of the White House, to begin work Monday morning and stay in continuous session until we are up or down. The purpose of the committee would be to centralise information, decide strategy, run lobbyists, and generally be in charge. We have a potentially enormous lobby, ours for the asking. What we need, in Garment's term, is a "high morale" operation to get it all together to some purpose. Let's go out with a bang.

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DPM/crm