

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

December 7, 1974

Pearl Harbor Day

8:50 - 9:05am

I gave him the in-box

He went through the calendar items. They are marked. The budget session of course is fine and the two proposed appointments are fine, as are the Orbon and Abar meetings.

Next, I explained to him that the task of handling one of his major appointments was so time consuming and so important that there be no mistake that it requires almost full time, at least, one or two would require full time and since he's thinking of several, it's clear that neither Walker nor I can do it and that therefore, I had assigned the Attorney General appointment to Areeda to handle; to see that every fly speck is checked out, that the proper people are checked with, that we have a plan and Hill consultations, the whole thing to see that that gets done and Walker and I will monitor it but he's got the responsibility.

I assigned HUD to Jim Lynn on the same basis. I wanted the President to know that. The President said he thought that was a good idea.

I told the President that Bryce had been in and that he had the following report. #1 that the bitching between the Nixon and Ford people on the staff has stopped. #2 that either OMB or Domestic Council ought to be an intellectual, an academician. #3 that the President still needs a caviar speechwriter, the guy who, like the Emmett Hughes and Ray Price, who really does the elevated work--he doesn't have it. #4 the National Chairman is a nice lady--he needs a National Chairman. #5 Caulkins and Hartmann can't cut it. #6 the political objective of the State of the Union is a coalition of forces being developed and that that kind of a man--the kind of a man who can think of that--political legislative coalition of forces in our country is the kind of guy who has to be involved in the State of the Union. Bob can't do it.

Next that the Cabinet changes are urgent.

Next, that the question of how Rockefeller is to be used it desperately important. That it will be looked at, fly specked and analyzed and you must not just drift in to a relationship, thinking because you've got good will and he's got good will that it's going to work. The initial day that he's sworn-in, how's its described is critical. It seems silly now, but mark me, he said, it will be a monstrous problem and you will spend all your time trying to



unsort it unless you address it now.

Next, I said, with respect to the HUD job, Catherine Cleary had said no.



I said the names we seem to have floating at the moment are the following: Bill Keating, Gaylord Freeman, very prestigious appointment, Houston Flournoy, Moon Landrow, the Democratic mayor from New Orleans and a thought, John Robson. I said, if you decide to go with Areeda of for Demestic Council, who is here and who can do it and go, Robson would be an excellent appointment to HUD or DOT or to the Special Trade Representative or to the CIEP. I then told him that George Shultz had been in and George had described a Areeda in a way that lead me to believe he might not be a bad appointment. That because of his academic background, it would be helpful in offsetting the problem that Bryce talked about, namely that the President isn't an intellectual. That according to Shutz, Areeda has been in the problem solving part of the law. That Areeda has a whole stable of brilliant young students who thinks the sun rises and sets on him and he probably would be very helpful in bringing people into the government, were he in a visiable position. Finally, it struck me that we could replace Areeda relatively easily. We've got good lawyers in our files who could be brought over or in. Finally, the President said, when I am I going to see Saxbe. And I said, we will try to set it up for this afternoon or Monday. DICK you've got the ACTION.

The end of the memo.

I told the President that I would be available today and tomorrow and he said he wanted to talk about personnel and organization. I said, do you want Walker or Cheney or Jones. And he said, have them standing by but first we've got to go over alot of things.

One last thought on that memo. The President said, ok let's go with Areeda at Domestic Council and Robson at HUD. And I said, well, we'll --just wait one second, let's talk later in the day.

