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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1994

MEETING WITH REP. CLEO FIELDS

DATE: August 15, 1994
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 6:45 p.m.
From: Pat Griffin

I. PURPOSE: To convince Fields to vote Yes on the Rule for the Crime Bill.

II. BACKGROUND: Fields has been very supportive of the Administration. He has voted with us 91 percent of the time - he has only voted no on NAFTA and VA Buyout reduction. In turn, as you know, the Department of Justice has weighed in heavily on behalf of his redistricting case - he recently won an important court decision holding his lines, essentially in place, for the 1994 elections.

Fields voted no on the Rule because of Racial Justice and the death penalty. We expect Fields to ask you your position on the death penalty - particularly relating to the provisions in the crime bill and he will request a copy of the RJA language. DOJ, Panetta and Mfume have been working closely on drafting the language. DOJ will send you the latest draft, but suggest that you not give him the actual language unless he commits to supporting the Rule.

III. PARTICIPANTS: POTUS, Fields, Griffin, Panetta

IV. PRESS PLAN: None

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: Fields enters Oval for private meeting.

VI. REMARKS
See attached

Suggested Talking Points
for Meeting with REP. CLEO FIELDS

1. Stress how important this bill is to your Administration and health care, and the Democratic Party as a whole.
2. Members who voted against the rule as a matter of principal in protest of RJA are standing with convicted murderers and turning their backs on the kids in their districts who need the prevention money. We need to look beyond the criminal element and look to the kids who need our help now.
3. Urge him, as a leader of his party, and as a Member who can support this rule in his district, to protect the more vulnerable Members of his party (like an Unsoeld) who need the political cover to vote no. This is what it means to be a leader in the Democratic Caucus.
4. Even if he is philosophically opposed to some elements of the bill, he should not prevent the entire Democratic caucus from considering the bill. If he opposes the bill he should take time during the debate to lay out his arguments and vote no on the bill, NOT on the procedural move.
5. Ask Fields if he will support the rule.
6. If there is no way that he can support the rule, could he delay announcing as long as possible.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1994

MEETING WITH REP. CLEO FIELDS

DATE: August 16, 1994
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
From: Pat Griffin

I. PURPOSE: To convince Fields to vote Yes on the Rule for the Crime Bill.

II. BACKGROUND: Fields has been very supportive of the Administration. He has voted with us 91 percent of the time - he has only voted no on NAFTA and VA Buyout reduction. Last Thursday, Fields received a stay in his redistricting case filed before the Supreme Court. Justice weighed in heavily on behalf of his redistricting case, and essentially his district lines are in place, for the 1994 elections.

Fields voted no on the Rule because of Racial Justice and the death penalty. We expect Fields to ask you your position on the death penalty - particularly relating to the provisions in the crime bill. Jeff Robinson with Justice discussed with Fields the elements of the Executive Order on Monday evening and shared with Fields a copy of draft language. DOJ, Panetta and Mfume have been working closely on drafting the language. DOJ will send you the latest draft. Fields is adamant that he have a commitment to do the RJA Executive Order to provide cover for a change of his position on the rule. Fields was assured by Justice of our commitment to do the executive order. You should know that Fields is to appear on NIGHTLINE tonight and will be discussing the executive order on racial justice.

Fields tells us that his Thursday vote was one of conscience. It had nothing to do with politics, he is vehemently opposed to the death penalty.

III. PARTICIPANTS: POTUS, Fields, Griffin, Panetta

IV. PRESS PLAN: None

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: Fields enters Oval for private meeting.

VI. REMARKS
See attached

Suggested Talking Points
for Meeting with REP. CLEO FIELDS

1. Stress how important this bill is to your Administration and health care, and the Democratic Party as a whole.
2. Members who voted against the rule as a matter of principal in protest of RJA are standing with convicted murderers and turning their backs on the kids in their districts who need the prevention money. We need to look beyond the criminal element and look to the kids who need our help now.
3. Urge him, as a leader of his party, and as a Member who can support this rule in his district, to protect the more vulnerable Members of his party (like an Unsoeld) who need the political cover to vote no. This is what it means to be a leader in the Democratic Caucus.
4. Even if he is philosophically opposed to some elements of the bill, he should not prevent the entire Democratic caucus from considering the bill. If he opposes the bill he should take time during the debate to lay out his arguments and vote no on the bill, NOT on the procedural move.
5. Ask Fields if he will support the rule.
6. If there is no way that he can support the rule, could he delay announcing as long as possible.