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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2572
FolderID:

Folder Title:
OMB [Office of Management and Budget] - Question and Answer on EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] Cabinet Level Status March 3, 1993

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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TRANSMISSION NUMBER: 202-395-5591

VERIFICATION NUMBER: 202-395-6194

TO:

Katie McGinty

Pam McElwaine

Please give me a call regarding the attached
Q & A, which includes Commerce & Interior
Comments. Thanks

FROM:

Ron Peterson

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

DATE:

3/2/93

3/3/93

TIME:

5:50 PM

9:50 AM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DIVISION
ROOM 7230
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

*KM-
EPA & NOAA are
still arguing over these
goddamn 2's that Carol
is going to submit to
the Govt Affairs Comm
Can we broker a
solution or
just tell me
how to shut
them up?
You signed
off on
the original
EPA
draft -
what are
your views
on NOAA's
comments??*

Garbark

QUESTION 5:

COMMENTATORS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PROGRAMS CURRENTLY MANAGED BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED WITHIN THE EPA.

FOR EXAMPLE THE CARNEGIE COMMISSION AND THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS RECOMMEND, AT A MINIMUM THAT PROGRAMS FROM THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT (E.G. NOAA), AND THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT (E.G. USGS) SHOULD BECOME PART OF THE EPA.

WOULD YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Answer:

support

I noted in my testimony one of the primary reasons for elevating EPA to cabinet status is to improve environmental policy integration and coordination among federal agencies. However, I would not envision a restructuring of environmental programs from other Departments as part of the EPA Cabinet legislation. Major improvements in integration and coordination across Departments can be made through better communication, information sharing, and joint problem solving. For instance, I now meet personally on a monthly basis with the Secretary of the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy, to foster this type of collaboration across the Executive Branch. It is possible that restructuring the federal government, including the recommendations of external organizations like the Carnegie Commission, may ultimately be the most efficient way to make needed improvements. But it is not clear to me at this time that there is any clear rationale or consensus for the basis or form that such a major reorganization would take.

Comm 2nd P

AND I INTEND TO MEET WITH THE HEADS OF THE DEPT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPT OF THE INTERIOR, CONFERENCE, INCLUDING NOAA

Comm 3rd P

of Federal - the use of existing interagency mechanisms, such as the Committee on Earth & Environmental Sciences (CEES)



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SP

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TRANSMISSION NUMBER: 202-395-5591

VERIFICATION NUMBER: 202-395-5194

TO:

Katie McGinty / Pam McElwee

*Per our conversation
RHP*

*Please give me a call regarding the attached
Q & A, which includes Commerce & Interior
Comments. Thanks*

FROM:

Ron Peterson

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

DATE:

3/2/93 3/3/93

TIME:

5:50 P.M. 9:50 AM

1:10 P.M.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DIVISION
ROOM 7230
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

02/23/93 16:58

D202 280 8185

EPA CONG LIAISON

2006

QUESTION 2:

COMMENTATORS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PROGRAMS CURRENTLY MANAGED BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED WITHIN THE EPA.

FOR EXAMPLE THE CARNEGIE COMMISSION AND THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS RECOMMEND, AT A MINIMUM THAT PROGRAMS FROM THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT (E.G. NOAA),* AND THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT (E.G. USGS) SHOULD BECOME PART OF THE EPA.

WOULD YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Answer:

I noted in my testimony one of the primary reasons for elevating EPA to cabinet status is to improve environmental policy integration and coordination among federal agencies. However, I would not ~~recommend~~ a restructuring of environmental programs from other Departments as part of the EPA Cabinet legislation. Major improvements in integration and coordination across Departments can be made through better communication, information sharing, and joint problem solving. For instance, I now meet personally on a monthly basis with the Secretary of the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy to foster this type of collaboration across the Executive Branch.

It is possible that restructuring the federal government, including the recommendations of external organizations like the Carnegie Commission, may ultimately be the most efficient way to make needed improvements. But it's not clear to me at this time that there is any clear rationale -- or consensus -- for the basis or form that such a major reorganization would take.

Insert 1: "and I intend to meet with the heads of appropriate agencies of the Department of Commerce, including NOAA,"

Insert 2: "and through the use of existing interagency mechanisms, such as the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES)"



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TRANSMISSION NUMBER: 202-395-5691

VERIFICATION NUMBER: 202-395-6194

TO: Katie McGinty

Please give me a call regarding the attached
Q & A, which includes Commerce & Interior
comments. Thanks

FROM: Ron Peterson

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

DATE: 3/2/93

TIME: 5:50 P.M.

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ROOM 7230
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

*Please call &
tell him I
can't understand
the French
language here.*

02/23/93 18:58

202 280 6185

EPA CONG LIAISON

008

Janbook

QUESTION B:

COMMENTATORS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PROGRAMS CURRENTLY MANAGED BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED WITHIN THE EPA.

FOR EXAMPLE THE CARNEGIE COMMISSION AND THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS RECOMMEND, AT A MINIMUM THAT PROGRAMS FROM THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT (E.G. NOAA), AND THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT (E.G. USGS) SHOULD BECOME PART OF THE EPA.

WOULD YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Answer:

support

I noted in my testimony one of the primary reasons for elevating EPA to cabinet status is to improve environmental policy integration and coordination among federal agencies. However, I would not envision a restructuring of environmental programs from other Departments as part of the EPA Cabinet legislation. Major improvements in integration and coordination across Departments can be made through better communication, information sharing, and joint problem solving. For instance, I now meet personally on a monthly basis with the Secretary of the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy, to foster this type of collaboration across the Executive Branch. ~~It is possible that restructuring the federal government, including the recommendations of external organizations like the Carnegie Commission, may ultimately be the most efficient way to make needed improvements. But it is not clear to me at this time that there is any clear rationale or consensus for the basis or form that such a major reorganization would take.~~

Comm 2nd P

and I intend to meet with the heads of the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, including NOAA,

Comm 3rd P.

through the use of existing interagency mechanisms, such as the Committee on Earth & Environmental Sciences (CEES).