

MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING

December 2, 1957
2:30 P. M. - 5:00 P. M.

The following were present:

President Eisenhower

Executive Session

Vice President Nixon
Sec. Dulles
Sec. Anderson
Sec. McElroy
AG Rogers
PMG Summerfield
Sec. Seaton
Sec. Benson
Sec. Weeks
Sec. Mitchell
Sec. Folsom

Director Brundage
Mr. Gordon Gray
Amb. Lodge

Gov. Adams

Regular Session

Under Sec. Herter
Adm. Strauss, AEC
Mr. Stans, Budget
Dr. Saulnier, CEA
Gov. Stassen

Gen. Persons
Mr. Hagerty
Gen. Goodpaster
Mr. Rabb
Dr. Killian
Mr. Morgan
Dr. Hauge
Mr. Larson
Mr. Siciliano
Mr. Randall
Mr. Martin
Gov. Pyle
Mr. Patterson
Mr. Minnich



Education Program - Sec. Folsom reported on further discussions in the development of this program and set forth present thinking in detail. He stressed that the program was being designed with great flexibility so that basic responsibilities would remain with the States, and that the program would definitely be terminated at the end of five years. The specific provisions included such things as a limited scholarship program, matching grants for improved teaching of science, mathematics, and foreign languages, for equipment, and for improvement of teacher training at the graduate level. Total cost would be \$300 million. He stressed the desirability of a well-rounded program like this as preferable to the many radical proposals certain to be introduced in the next session.



Sec. Folsom said it was contemplated that the Administration would not press its school construction assistance program even though the need for more school rooms continued, since science and related educational needs must take priority.

Dr. Killian believed this a very good program, especially since it was not confined merely to science. He pointed to the particular need for helping small colleges and graduate schools. He noted the existing program of the National Science Foundation with which there would have to be close coordination.

The President inquired as to the desirability of so broad a program which might not remedy the lag in science and mathematics. He was opposed to the 75 - 25 basis for matching grants, and Sec. Folsom said that could be changed. The President wondered if sufficient attention had been given to encouraging indirectly higher pay for teachers, thus to remedy the need. Mr. Folsom believed that would not have sufficiently quick effect.

Sec. Benson expressed his concern with getting into new Federal programs and hoped alternative methods could be explored. Mr. Stassen thought it a good program since it left much room for help from private funds. Sec. Anderson was somewhat hesitant and thought that if the Federal Government did enter the field it ought to do so in a way leaving room for maximum effort and control by the States. Mr. Gray expressed some misgiving but felt it could be justified in terms of filling a particular need for a particular time only.

The President recalled Dr. Burns' suggestion for remunerated summer advancement opportunities for teachers. Mr. Folsom said he had heard from school people that this probably could not compete with high wages offered by industry. Mr. Brundage assumed the proposal would be reviewed as usual with Budget and the President commented that some of the figures would probably have to be reduced.

(The President left the meeting at this point.)

Secretaries Mitchell and Folsom discussed the need for justifying the absence of a school construction program. The Vice President thought the President had provided this justification in the Oklahoma City speech, when he said some activities would have to be increased at the cost of deferring others.

Sec. Dulles wished to observe, without unnecessarily criticizing, that any contest like this with the Russians always carried the danger of destroying what one really seeks to protect. Over-emphasis on science might cause neglect of other things which are fundamental to a free society. He was wary of warping the educational pattern for materialistic purposes of a government. Sec. Folsom responded in terms of remedying the recent drift away from science and mathematics and also of



the broad features of the proposal. Mr. Stassen gave further support to the proposal and the Vice President concluded that close attention must be given to keeping presentation of it in proper balance.

State of the Union Message - In a rapid general discussion, there was unanimous agreement that the State of the Union Message should be much shorter this year and that detailed material should be reserved for special messages. It was felt that the President's emphasis should be reserved for the critical items of immediate interest to the Nation.

Stand-by Emergency Legislation - The Vice President noted that this subject might arise at the Leadership Meeting the next day and asked whether the Administration view remained the same as in 1955 when it would have been glad to have such authority but did not seek to press for it. Sec. Weeks hoped no hasty decision would be made to seek this legislation after all the careful thought previously given to it without any showing of necessity.

Pay Increases - The Vice President asked whether Sec. McElroy would be discussing the Cordiner proposals at the Legislative Meeting and whether an irrevocable decision had been reached. Sec. Anderson, noting the budget squeeze and somewhat increased unemployment, thought it might be preferable to leave the initiative with the Congress and to confine any Cordiner action to an area of strict military security need.

Sec. Mitchell thought it inevitable that Congress would increase salaries and that the real question was how could the Administration secure the most desirable action. He felt that military pay could not be increased while civilian pay was neglected. The Postmaster General pointed out that any rate increase must be accompanied by a pay increase, and that some pay increases would be desirable as an anti-cyclical measure. Mr. Folsom pointed to the urgent need for action with regard to highest grades. Mr. Seaton was concerned with the probable adverse public reaction to Government pay increases in the current situation. Mr. Rogers reaffirmed Mr. Seaton's views, as did also Mr. Benson. Gov. Stassen favored the increase for economic reasons and to correct existing inequities. Mr. Brundage thought this item might be the margin of a deficit budget. Mr. McElroy felt certain that Congress would increase salaries in any event and that previous Administration expressions of support for the work of the Cordiner Committee pretty well precluded a change of position now. Gov. Adams recalled the rationale of the

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President's veto message and the need for looking at the equities of the situation in the light of recent increases in the cost of living.

The Vice President asked Governor Adams to relay this discussion to the President, who must make the decision. Governor Adams added that the proposal would be looked over very carefully prior to final decision, even though the Administration had already started to cross the bridge. And finally, the problem of retaining scientific and engineering personnel in government was one that somehow had to be done.



LAM

L. A. Minnich, Jr.

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