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THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: THE VICE PRESIDENT
SUBJECT: Indications of Possible Major Earthquake
in California

1. At one of the Science-Advisory Panel meetings two weeks ago, Dr. Frank Press, Chairman of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at M.I.T., reported on indications of a possible major earthquake in California. Through Dr. Teller, I asked him to give me the basic information, which is in the attached letter.

2. As Dr. Press' letter states, this information will soon become public, probably in Science magazine, later this month.

3. I have sent copies of the letter to Dr. Teller, Dr. Hans Mark, and Dr. Guy Stever of the National Science Foundation, as well as to the chairmen of the two science-and-technology advisory and consulting groups (Simon Ramo and Bill Baker).

4. What is at stake is:

- restoration of 25% funding cut for the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Service;
- appropriation of \$2 million for a "dense" earthquake-monitoring network at the Southern end of the San Andreas fault, similar to the network already operating effectively at the Northern end of the fault, near San Francisco;

- consideration of additional funds (\$10 - \$20 million) to "put us at the same level as the Chinese" in our national earthquake-predicting capability.

5. I am arranging a meeting today of Domestic Council staff people and representatives of the Interior Department (U.S. Geological Survey), H.U.D. (disaster assistance), the National Science Foundation and OMB.

6. This group will review the attached letter and report to me on what should be recommended. I'll have these recommendations ready for you at our meeting next week.

bcc: Jim Cannon
Glenn Schleede



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550



OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

Carthage

February 9, 1976

*Meet at Glenn
on Monday*

The Vice President
The White House
Washington, D C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

Since sending my letter on earthquake prediction earlier today, I have had further conversations on the subject. Both the Department of the Interior group and Frank Press think that a ten-year goal to achieve earthquake prediction is possible. I can agree with that as a reasonable goal; the only question in my mind comes as to how fast one can effectively accelerate to the steady state program such a goal will require.

Sincerely yours,

H. Guyford Stever
H. Guyford Stever
Science Adviser

Copy to:

Mr. James T Lynn, OMB
Mr. James L. Mitchell, OMB
Mr. James Cannon, Domestic Council ✓
Mr. Glenn Schleede, Domestic Council



Earthquake
Energy?
(Sentinel)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 29, 1976

TO: DENNIS BARNES

FROM: JIM CANNON

I would like to meet with you
about this next week.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON

FROM: DENNIS BARNES

SUBJECT: Earthquake Legislation

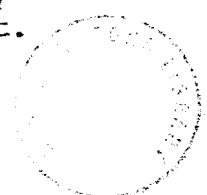
On July 27, Congressman Mosher introduced legislation entitled, "Earthquake Hazard Reduction Act of 1976". A Fact Sheet on the draft version of the legislation is attached to this memorandum.

The staff of the House Science and Technology subcommittee which prepared the legislation has asked OMB for comments and recommendations from the Administration. Mark-up for the bill is scheduled for Thursday, July 29.

I have met with representatives from FDAA(HUD), NSF, USGS, General Counsel's Office of Interior, NBS, and OMB. Basically all except the Interior General Counsel and some of OMB are not opposed to the legislation. Interior and some of OMB feel that the Administration is already on record that sufficient authority exists to fulfill the Federal responsibility for earthquake hazard reduction and support for this legislation would compromise our stated position.

The four options available seem to be:

- Support the legislation and offer suggestions for improvement, as invited by the subcommittee staff.
- Do not support the legislation, but offer an alternative (none have been considered, as of now).
- Do not respond to the invitation from the subcommittee staff and wait to see whether the Committee and the House accept the bill.
- Oppose the legislation on the grounds that the Administration already stated that it has the necessary authority to fulfill the responsibilities laid out.



I recommend that the Domestic Council's position be that while the Administration still believe that it has adequate authority for the purposes proposed, the legislation has fewer objectionable provisions than other proposals under consideration by the Congress (particularly a Senate-passed bill by Senator Cranston which provides major new authorizations for NSF and USGS earthquake research). The Administration should then offer to work with the subcommittee staff in improving the bill.

The major advantage of this position would seem to be the opportunity for the President to take some credit for leadership in dealing with the earthquake hazard on terms which preserve great flexibility in implementing the legislation.

The chief disadvantage is that if no support is given by the Administration, there is an even chance that no earthquake legislation will emerge this session.

FACT SHEET

EARTHQUAKE HAZARD REDUCTION ACT OF 1976

Summary of Draft Bill

The purpose of the Act is "to reduce the risks of life and property from future earthquakes in the United States through the establishment and maintenance of an effective earthquake hazard reduction program."

The purpose would be achieved through the establishment of:

- . a National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program which will provide for
 - research on the basic physical properties and systems which contribute to the development of feasible earthquake prediction and warnings
 - research on structural behavior and properties from which new earthquake resistant design and construction methods and procedures can be developed
 - research on the social, legal and economic aspects of earthquake hazards
 - development of model codes regulations and the like; educational programs for the public and State and local officials; information transfer methods; legislative recommendations; training; assessment of foreign experience with all aspects of earthquakes; and post-earthquake investigations.
- . An Office of Earthquake Hazard Reduction which shall be part of and existing agency to be specified by the President. The Office shall have overall responsibility for:
 - the planning and coordination of earthquake activities of all Federal agencies
 - coordination with State and local governments and private interests

-- staffing to the National Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazard Reduction (see below)

- . A National Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazard Reduction of not fewer than 10 members shall be appointed by the President to advise the Office of Earthquake Hazard Reduction. Members shall be drawn from the research community, private industry and government (Federal, State and local).
- . An Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Board composed of scientists to evaluate individual earthquake predictions and issue authenticated predictions if and when earthquake prediction becomes a sufficiently reliable science. Where the Board is located is not specified.
- . Authorizations
 - for the Office of Earthquake Hazard Reduction, \$1 million for FY 1977 and \$2 million for each of FY 1978 and FY 1979.
 - for the U.S. Geological Survey, \$14, \$16 and \$18 million for FY 1977, FY 1978, and FY 1979, respectively
 - for the National Science Foundation, \$15, \$17 and \$20 for FY 1977, FY 1978, and FY 1979, respectively.

Status

Congressman Mosher plans to introduce the legislation July 27, 1976 and hold a mark-up session before the Subcommittee on Science and Research Technology.

Administration Position

Undetermined at this time.



Earthquakes file FYI
Energy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1976

AD
Good
Thanks

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: ART QUERN
SUBJECT: REPORT ON EARTHQUAKE ISSUES

Attached is the report you requested for the President regarding earthquake prediction and preparation.

Let me know if you think we need anything more at this time.

cc: Jim Cannon
Jim Lynn
Max Friedersdorf
Glenn Schleede
Lynn May
Dick Allison



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM CANNON *Jim Cannon*
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION AND PREPARATIONS

Jack Marsh has asked that we bring you up-to-date on recent activities with respect to earthquakes. Accordingly, this memorandum summarizes:

- . Increased public and Congressional concerns.
- . Pending legislation.
- . Executive Branch actions and activities.
- . Next steps.

Increased Concerns

Over the past few months, the public and Congress have become increasingly concerned about earthquakes because:

- . Information released last December by the U.S. Geological Survey indicated that significant movement had occurred over the past 15 years along a 100 mile portion of the San Andreas Fault north of Los Angeles (the "Palmdale Uplift").
- . New public claims have emanated from the scientific community that we are on the verge of being able to predict earthquakes.
- . In May 1976, a California Institute of Technology professor reported that a moderate earthquake in the Los Angeles area was possible within a year.
- . During the past year, major destructive earthquakes have occurred in China, Guatemala, Italy and the Philippines -- seen by some (incorrectly) as a potential worldwide earthquake pattern.



Pending Legislation

The Congress has acted on earthquake legislation -- pushed primarily by members of the California delegation. Specifically:

- . In May 1976, the Senate passed a bill sponsored by Senator Cranston (S. 1174) which would (a) direct the President to establish a "coordinated earthquake hazard reduction program" to reduce disruption and loss of life and property, and (b) authorize an additional \$150 million over three years, mostly for increased research by NSF and the Geological Survey.
- . On August 10, 1976, the House Science and Technology Committee ordered reported an amended version of S. 1174 which:
 - Establishes a new Office of Earthquake Hazards Reduction -- to be located in the Executive Office of the President until a "home" is found for it by the President in some existing agency.
 - Establishes two new statutory earthquake advisory committees.
 - Calls for launching a "National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program," consisting of (a) expanded research on prediction, damage reduction and related economic and social issues, and (b) planning and implementing a comprehensive earthquake program.
 - Requires the President to specify the responsibilities of some 12 agencies that have earthquake related activities, conduct an annual "unified" review of the overall program budget, and submit an annual report.
 - Authorizes an additional \$92 million over three years.

Administration witnesses have testified against the bills in both the House and Senate on grounds that we are already reassessing earthquake R&D needs and sufficient authority already exists to carry out Federal responsibilities with respect to earthquakes. This opposition has not slowed the bills.

Our current assessment is that (a) both bills are undesirable -- particularly the House bill which calls for a major new program and creates three new organizations prior to the completion of any satisfactory delineation of the problem to be addressed, (b) the House bill may well be on your desk before the end of the session unless some extraordinary steps are taken to slow it down, and (c) a veto

of the bill will be difficult to justify publicly.

Earthquake-Related Actions Taken by the Executive Branch

During the past 9 months, the following actions have been taken:

- . Your 1977 Budget eliminated any funding for civil defense activities relating to natural hazards. Instead, such activities were limited to nuclear war preparations.
- . In April, you approved reprogramming of \$2.6 million for monitoring the uplift near Los Angeles. These funds are in addition to about \$20 million already in your Budget for NSF and Geological Survey earthquake research and prediction.
- . You directed Dr. Stever to review current Federal earthquake research and prediction programs and provide information needed to consider increased earthquake research funding in your 1978 Budget. An interagency group and an outside advisory group established by Dr. Stever will soon recommend options for increasing earthquake R&D in 1978 from \$19 million to \$66 million above the current \$20 million level.
- . The Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) of HUD delegated to the Geological Survey responsibility under the Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1974 for:
 - preparing to issue earthquake warnings.
 - providing assistance to state and local governments to issue warnings to the public. (No funds available for this.)
- . The FDAA retains responsibility for:
 - providing assistance to states for earthquake disaster preparation planning.
 - providing post-disaster assistance in the form of low-interest loans.

Next Steps

Thus far, our review of earthquake matters has indicated that:

- . The ability to predict earthquakes accurately -- in terms of date, location and intensity -- is not as near at hand as some had thought. Responsible claims now are that the capability may be available "within a decade."

- . When Dr. Stever completes his work in the next few weeks, we will be in good shape to deal with earthquake R&D questions.
- . Activities are underway in other earthquake-related areas, principally by the FDAA. (For example, FDAA officials are now in California conferring with state and local people on earthquake preparedness matters.) However, we have not assured ourselves or made a convincing case publicly that we are taking all necessary actions with respect to earthquakes beyond R&D. In fact, responsibilities are fragmented and no comprehensive review has been undertaken since 1969 to (a) identify and define the problems to be addressed, and (b) assign responsibilities. (This situation helps explain our inability to head off the legislation now moving in the Congress.)
- . Relatively little thought has been given to the economic, social and legal problems that might result if and when the capability exists to predict earthquakes some days, weeks or months in advance.
- . We are relying heavily on state and local governments and the private sector to prepare for earthquakes, but:
 - those governments are not well prepared to carry out their responsibilities, and
 - recent events appear headed in the direction of forcing a greater Federal role and responsibility.

We have assumed that Federal responsibility is limited largely to R&D, planning assistance, warnings and post disaster loans; and that the state and local governments and private sector are responsible for post-prediction activities including warnings to the public, planning, zoning, building standards, insurance and dealing with virtually all economic, social and legal problems.

In view of our findings thus far, I have established an Ad Hoc Domestic Council group -- with participation from appropriate agencies -- to assess in more detail the current Federal authority and programs relating to earthquakes, identify problems requiring attention, and recommend necessary actions for your consideration in the new budget and legislative program.

OMB, Dr. Stever, and HUD have concurred in this action and will participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Group.

I will keep you informed of progress.

The Violent Earth

ACCORDING TO THE GEOLOGISTS, there is nothing unusual about the round of earthquakes and volcanic activity that has recently swept the world. If there is any connection between the threatened eruption of La Soufriere in the Leeward Islands, the predicted eruption of Mauna Loa in Hawaii, and the earthquakes in China, the Philippines and elsewhere, we do not know of it. These events the experts say, are no more than one might expect in the way of bubbling and heaving of a planet that is still a long way from having solidified. This is not to suggest that we know nearly enough about the forces that from time to time create catastrophic upheavals on the surface of our planet. And what we don't know about this matter, contrary to the old adage, can hurt us in terrible ways. It is rare that there is no damage to human beings or their settlements when the earth stirs violently.

But much more is known about earthquakes and volcanoes now than was known just a few years ago. The science of predicting such events has developed rapidly and the day may come when geologists can say with considerable accuracy when a quake or an eruption will occur. Chinese scientists have predicted the timing of several major earthquakes in the past two years—sometimes accurately and sometimes not—and their government has taken emergency steps to limit casualties and damages. American scientists are predicting a major eruption of Mauna Loa within 24 months and have recommended that Hawaiian officials develop plans for attempting to divert lava flows from populated areas. Last winter, the director of the U.S. Geological Survey, V. E. McKelvey, proposed the creation of a national Earthquake Prediction Council to evaluate and make public the predictions made by individual scientists and agencies.

These developments open up serious questions of public policy. The first set of these deal with what resources ought to be devoted to exploiting and expanding knowledge about the earth's internal stresses. Congress has increased, slightly, the budget for such programs in the Geological Survey. And bills are pending on Capitol Hill to inject substantially more money into the earthquake prediction program. But, as in most scientific projects, it is difficult to guess at what the return on such an investment might be. The

development of a reliable method of reducing the severity of an earthquake—and there are proposals now for beginning major experiments aimed at doing that—might someday save billions of dollars worth of property in Los Angeles and San Francisco. But there is no guarantee that a stepped up program will produce the desired results.

The other set of public policy questions relates to the problems that will arise if the scientists create a reasonably reliable method of predicting earthquakes. What do individuals—and governments, for that matter—do if the geologists announce that a major earthquake will occur near Los Angeles in 3 or 30 or 300 days? The Chinese have evacuated a couple of large cities based on just such predictions. And, on at least one occasion, nothing happened. Evacuating a city, and withstanding the criticism for an inaccurate prediction, may be possible in a totalitarian nation but is it either possible or desirable in this country? What degree of reliability would a prediction have to have before a public official would be willing to advise citizens to take drastic action to protect themselves? Given the inexact nature of man's knowledge of these natural phenomena—and that is all we are likely to have for some years—should government limit itself to shutting down nuclear power plants, lowering the water level behind dams, and similar actions when the earthquake danger is high?

The questions are not esoteric. A majority of this nation's population now lives in areas which are regarded by geologists as earthquake zones and there are still five active volcanoes on the West Coast. Sooner or later, some part of the country is likely to undergo the kind of earthly violence that has killed more than 25,000 people so far this year in Guatemala, Italy, Bali, Philippines, China and the Soviet Union. Right now, nobody is pretending to be able to tell you with any certitude where this might happen or when. Gradually, however, the scientists will develop an increased ability to pinpoint the place and the time. At some point off in the future, the real question will then be whether enough people will acquire enough faith in the warnings of the scientists in time to take the kind of extraordinarily costly and disruptive precautions that might save hundreds of thousands of lives.

Earthquakes

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file *Ex. 8/25/76*
Please
Def
for
Energy

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: JIM CANNON *Jim Cannon*
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION AND PREPARATIONS

Jack Marsh has asked that we bring you up-to-date on recent activities with respect to earthquakes. Accordingly, this memorandum summarizes:

- . Increased public and Congressional concerns.
- . Pending legislation.
- . Executive Branch actions and activities.
- . Next steps.

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Earthquakes

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 3, 1976

Art - 7?

James P. S. [Signature]

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

GLENN SCHLEEDE

SUBJECT:

EARTHQUAKE LEGISLATION (S. 1174)

It now looks virtually certain that the President will have an earthquake bill on his desk before the end of this session. Science and Technology Committee will go to Rules Committee early next week and expects to get the bill on the suspense calendar on or about September 13.

House proponents of the bill expect the Senate to accept the House version without change, making the conference unnecessary.

cc: Max Friedersdorf
Charles Leppert
Bill Kendall
Jim Mitchell
Lynn May

9/11/76

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Date

9-7-76

TO:

Jim Cannon

FROM: Max L. Friedersdorf

For Your Information



Please Handle

Please See Me

Comments, Please

Other

I told Schlude I don't feel strongly about this; just believe it is poor policy to fight earthquake legislation with high level of quake expectation.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Max Friedersdorf
File
INFORMATION

September 1, 1976

Earthquake

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

GLENN SCHLEEDE
DENNIS BARNES

SUBJECT:

EARTHQUAKE LEGISLATION

I understand that Max Friedersdorf believes that we should not be opposing the earthquake legislation that is moving through the Congress. In view of this difference of opinion, I thought it would be worthwhile to put down some more of the details of that legislation so that you have a better basis for making a judgment on it.

Since the legislation has grown and flourished "on our watch," we are taking the liberty of sending you this follow-up memo, even though the lead responsibility on the Domestic Council for earthquakes has shifted to Lynn May.

Briefly, this memorandum summarizes:

- Current Status of the legislation.
- Reasons for opposing the legislation.
- Reasons for not opposing the legislation.
- Possible next steps.



STATUS

In May 1976, the Senate passed a bill sponsored by Senator Cranston (S. 1174) which would expand the Federal earthquake R&D program and authorize an additional \$150 million over three years, mostly for the NSF and the U.S. Geological Survey.

On August 10, 1976, the House Science and Technology Committee ordered reported an amended version of S. 1174, the Mosher bill, a summary of which is attached. The House and Senate Committees are in general agreement on the House language and may, if the House passes the Mosher bill, bypass the conference on the way to a Senate floor vote.

But, we defer, of course, to those who have the substantive responsibility. Max
090711

The House Interior Committee is now considering the Mosher bill and plans to decide on a course of action on September 1. A pivotal consideration will be a ruling by the Budget Committee on whether the authorizations for FY 1977 can be considered this session since they were introduced after the House deadline for such measures. If a negative, or no ruling is made before September 1, the Interior Committee may report the bill out with authorization provisions advanced by one year. If a favorable ruling is made, the odds are moderately favorable that the Committee will report out the Mosher bill.

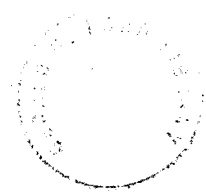
REASONS FOR OPPOSING THE LEGISLATION

° We don't need it:

- We are proceeding on a comprehensive earthquake R&D program.
- We can carry out the other steps under the Domestic Council Task Force group you created.

However, the burden of proof rests with the Administration to demonstrate that the above is the case.

- ° It creates a major new bureaucracy devoted to earthquakes (as detailed in the attachment). Past experience with disaster preparedness organizations does not indicate this is either a necessary or desirable course of action.
- ° Though difficult to articulate to the public, the bill is an over-reaction to the current earthquake threat. Specifically, the current perceptions are:
 - in part due to recent major earthquakes elsewhere -- which the scientific community tells us is not a basis for expecting a major earthquake in the U.S.
 - in part a response to the claims a few months ago that the capability to predict earthquakes was near at hand -- a claim from which the scientific community has backed off since the recent damaging, unpredicted Peking earthquake.
- ° It calls for a major new program which if carried out, would lead to a much greater Federal role in preparations for natural disaster than anything we have seen thus far (detailed in the attachment).
- ° It adds unnecessary new funding authorizations which may have the effect of making even increased budget requests seem small by comparison.



REASONS FOR NOT OPPOSING THE LEGISLATION

- Whether correct or not, many believe the Federal Government hasn't done enough to prepare for potential earthquakes -- and we haven't yet made a strong case that we have taken all actions reasonably expected of the Federal Government.
- Opposition may be portrayed or interpreted as indifference or unwillingness on the part of the President to confront the earthquake problem.
- The President may lose credit for the steps which he has already taken and has underway in this area.

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

I understand that Max is not willing to have us take any action that would slow up the bill (e.g., referral of it to House Government Operations, rules committee opposition). There is little that we can do other than await the pleasure of the Congress.

Attachment

cc: Lynn May

Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1976 (S. 1174)

As Ordered to be Reported by the
House Science and Technology Committee

August 10, 1976

The principal features of the bill are:

- A. A statement of purpose, which is "to reduce the risks of life and property from future earthquakes in the United States through the establishment and maintenance of an effective earthquake hazards reduction program."
- B. A directive to the President to establish and maintain:
 - 1. A National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program including:
 - a. Physical Studies of the nature and behavior of the earth including basic research, and development of theories, methods and instrumentation for earthquake prediction.
 - b. Structural studies which will lead to better earthquake resistance of both new and existing structures.
 - c. Social, legal and economic research covering topics ranging from insurance to behavioral research.
 - d. Implementation of new knowledge through:
 - (1) development of model codes, regulations, and standards,
 - (2) better preparation pre-event planning, warning dissemination, emergency services, and reconstruction and redevelopment,
 - (3) education of State and local officials and the public,
 - (4) information clearinghouse services including representative plans for national gas lines or dams, earthquake evacuation and dissemination to State agencies,
 - (5) legislative recommendations,
 - (6) training of earthquake hazards specialists,
 - (7) studies of foreign experience with all aspects of earthquake post-earthquake investigations, and
 - (8) an analysis by FDAA (HUD) and FPA (GSA) of the disaster preparedness of all State and local governments in high seismic risk areas -- to be submitted to the Congress in 180 days.

2. An Office of Earthquake Hazards Reduction in the Executive Office, until placed within an existing agency by the President, to be responsible for:
 - ° overall planning, strategy, and budget review of the Federal earthquake hazards reduction effort;
 - ° submitting a program plan within 180 days, and
 - ° coordination among Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector.
3. An Earthquake Prediction Board composed of scientists to evaluate and compile records of earthquake predictions and "issue authenticated earthquake predictions if and when earthquake prediction becomes a sufficiently reliable science."
4. A National Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction of no fewer than ten experienced members representative of the research community, private industry, Federal and State and local governments to advise the Office on the progress, implementation and coordination of the program.
5. Identification of seventeen Federal Departments and Agencies for which the President is to assign specific roles and responsibilities, including that for unified review of the program budget.

C. Authorizations for:

1. the Program - \$1 million through the Transition Quarter and \$2 million for FY 1978 and FY 1979.
2. The USGS, up to \$14 million through the Transition Quarter "in addition to any authorizations included in other Acts," and like amounts for FY 1978 and FY 1979.
3. The NSF - up to \$15 million through the Transition Quarter "in addition to any authorizations included in other Acts," and like amounts for FY 1978 and FY 1979.

Earthquakes

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

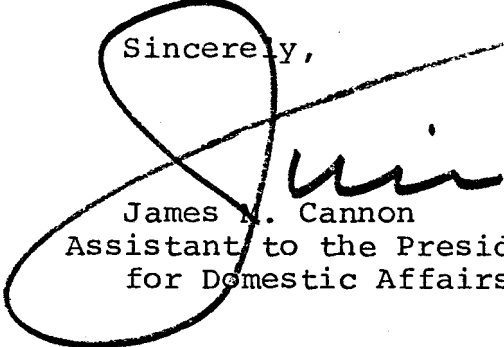
September 28, 1976

Dear Guy:

Thank you for your August 25, 1976 report on the progress of the Advisory Group on Earthquake Prediction and Hazard Mitigation. I understand that discussions are already underway between your staff and OMB about how best to use the Advisory Group's recommendations in the FY 1978 budget process.

Staff of the Domestic Council are reviewing existing Federal agency plans for natural disaster preparedness and hazards mitigation. As this information is developed, your ideas and comments on additional actions which may be desirable will be helpful.

Sincerely,



James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

Dr. H. Guyford Stever
Director
Office of Science and Technology
Policy
Washington, D.C. 20500



cc: Barnes
Schleede

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

August 25, 1976

Mr. James Cannon
Assistant to the Vice President
for Domestic Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

*Schleede
Stones
acknowledged?
Jim*

Dear Jim:

In mid-August the Advisory Group on Earthquake Prediction and Hazard Mitigation met again with representatives of the U.S.G.S., NSF, the Executive Offices and other agencies to review potential elements of an accelerated research program in earthquake monitoring, prediction, and hazard mitigation. I believe the advisory group has helped and to a large extent has fulfilled the objectives that I had in mind when I organized it. Research program options will be ready for the further consideration of NSF, the Department of Interior, the Executive Offices, and other agencies as soon as we receive some additional review comments. Thus, from the standpoint of putting together options for an accelerated research program for consideration in the FY 1978 budgetary process, I believe we have come a long way toward fulfilling the President's requests. I will, of course, review these prospective research options in the context of the overall budget in the weeks ahead.

The several months of work on the research program options have illuminated many of the problems in this area. While I believe that a balanced, accelerated effort in earthquake prediction is a desirable Federal initiative, I must emphasize that the results will be of assistance only over the longer term. And, if we improve our capabilities in prediction, we will be faced with real dilemmas as to how best use this knowledge for most of the actions that could be taken with such knowledge are at the state, local, and private levels. These are questions of disaster preparedness. Some of the research that is included in the plans now being developed relates to disaster preparedness, but again, this would help only over the longer term.

I am concerned that our short term plans for preparedness and disaster coordination may not be as adequate as they should be. It would be well to consider additional executive level action to insure that our coordination capabilities for any earthquake disaster preparedness and relief

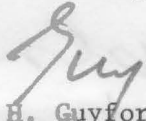


Mr. James Cannon

Page Two

activities are in as good an order as they can be. This is an issue in which I could play a role, and I would be willing, of course, to do so, but there are many other Federal units that must be brought together. The Domestic Council structure might be the best means of doing it. I would recommend that you give this question some attention.

Sincerely,


H. Guyford Stever
Director

cc: Mr. James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management and Budget



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activities are in as good an order as they can be. This is an issue in which I would like to play a role. I would be willing, of course, to do so, but there are many other Federal matters that must be brought together. The Domestic Council structure might be the best means of doing it. I would be pleased that you give this question some attention.

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JMC plm f
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cc: Mr. James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management and Budget