

The original documents are located in Box 25, folder “Oceans Policy” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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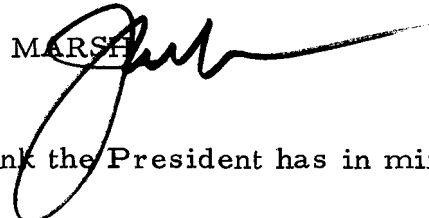
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CAVANAUGH

FROM: JACK MARSH



The attached ties in to what I think the President has in mind concerning an announcement.

I would appreciate your reviewing it to see if it ties in with what the President seeks to do.

Many thanks.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Rockville, Md. 20852

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MAR 13 1976

March 12, 1976

The Honorable John Marsh, Jr.
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Handwritten: Memo to Staff

Dear Jack:

Am attaching the brief memorandum you requested on the Marine Council and other ocean initiatives. I hope it will be satisfactory for your discussions with the President. I wish I had had more time to prepare the memorandum, but in view of my imminent departure to the Law of the Sea Conference in New York I thought I had best get the idea down on paper and over to you forthwith.

Warm personal regards.

Cordially,

Handwritten signature: Howard W. Pollock
Howard W. Pollock
NOAA Deputy Administrator

Enclosure



March 12, 1976

SUBJECT: Reactivation of the Marine Council and other
Ocean Initiatives

When Hubert Humphrey was Vice President he chaired a Presidentially-constituted Marine Council, and, during this period, there was a definite surge of activities concerning the marine environment. Ocean activities were blossoming. Industry was constructing and operating underwater submersibles and habitats, and universities were doing marine scientific research and developing ocean technology.

Today virtually all of the submersibles and habitats have ceased operations; ocean industries have receded. The popular Office of Coastal Zone Management was created by Congress over the objections and in spite of the Administration. Sea Grant growth has stopped, and, in fact, efforts are presently underway in the Administration to reduce the authorization and diminish the marine research and developmental activities carried out in the colleges and universities of the Nation.

The real population densities of the United States are located near the coastal areas. Counting those on the Great Lakes, there are thirty coastal states of the U. S. with maritime, fishing, offshore oil & gas, marine mining, and marine academic and economic interests of one kind or another.

It is a grave mistake to assume that the oceans have no political constituency. Fishermen, ship construction workers, ship crews, maritime shipping companies, Sea Grant institutions, coastal states and other coastal zone authorities, academia, etc., comprise an enormous ocean constituency.

The Administration should embark upon a bold leadership in ocean activities, and the President should announce the re-institution of the Marine Council or some similar Presidentially-constituted body, and then give enthusiastic support to the concept.

Many of the disheartened and disillusioned top officials of ocean-industry corporations would welcome such a decision, and, speaking politically or economically, it would be a really great and dynamic innovation for this country.

Both Houses of Congress have passed legislation creating a 200-mile fisheries zone, and both are contemplating similar legislation to protect American industry in deep ocean mining. More and more food must, of necessity, come from the oceans to feed a protein-starved world; and, we are seeking more and more to explore and extract oil & gas from the continental margins off our coasts.

It would be an exciting and well received announcement were the President to turn his attention and support to the development of our ocean resources. In addition to those mentioned above, deep ocean ports, off-shore nuclear power plants, deep ocean up-welling for the operation of mariculture farms, off-shore air fields, and even human habitats are the wave of the near future, and may well become a reality sooner than we realize.

We need a dramatic Presidential plan for the oceans comparable to the announcement by Jack Kennedy that we would put a man on the moon within the decade. It captured the imagination and enthusiastic support of the American people--and we made the dream a reality.

May 13, 1976

Senate bill S.713 will be brought up next week in the Interior Subcommittee. In essence, it proposes that the United States unilaterally declare its intent to mine the deep sea beds for minerals.

It is my understanding five Cabinet officials have been asked to testify at the hearings (Commerce, State, Defense, Treasury and Interior).

Secretary Kleppe believes strongly that he should testify in favor of the bill with certain amendments. I believe that all others will testify against the bill, citing the overall considerations of the State Department that calls for such activities to be determined by multi-national agreements. I have asked Secretary Kleppe's people to please hold their decision pending your discussions with Cheney, Scrowcroft, et al.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JIM CANNON

FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH

SUBJECT: Law of the Sea - Tom Kleppe's
Testimony on S-173

George Humphreys brought this problem to your attention after this morning's staff meeting. Jack Marsh and Mike Duval mentioned it to me today at noon. I have talked to George and we both agree that the five agencies should get together at 4:00 today at State to work out their testimony. I've asked Commerce and N.S.C. to keep us informed of any potential problems. If a problem exists after that meeting, we may want to elevate it to the White House for resolution.

