The original documents are located in Box 11, folder "Drug Abuse (8)" of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Persons
Fyi
Jim

DEA

Peter B. Bensinger ADMINISTRATOR

September 3, 1976

To: Mr. Jim Cannon

Jim - for your information.

PB

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090808

Chicago Tribune
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

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WILLIAM H. JONES, *Managing Editor, News*

8 Section 1 Monday, August 2, 1976

THE NEWSPAPER is an institution developed by modern civilization to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and lead public opinion, and to furnish that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide.

—THE TRIBUNE CREDO

New tools for drug war

Drug abuse is on the increase again in the United States. Successes in the battle against narcotics in the early 1970s have eroded and the number of individual tragedies caused by drugs is growing. More than 5,000 persons are dying of drug overdoses each year in the United States. Many thousands more are trapped in ruined lives. And drug abuse costs now top $17 billion annually.

The problem of drug abuse is excruciatingly complex. But one thing is clear: The federal government needs several stronger legal weapons to cut down on the profitability and ease of trafficking in heroin and similar dangerous drugs. These necessary and obvious changes in the law have been proposed by President Ford and introduced in the Senate —and they should be enacted as quickly as possible by Congress.

Currently, one in every four persons convicted of trafficking in heroin does not get a prison sentence at all. One in every three draws a term of less than three years, and those who do go to jail are eligible for parole after serving one-third of their sentence. The legislation proposed by President Ford requires mandatory sentences of three years for persons convicted of manufacturing, importing, or trafficking in heroin or similar dangerous drugs, with no parole eligibility for the full three years. Second offenses would draw mandatory sentences of six years.

The new legislation would also tighten up bail restrictions in narcotic cases. Forty-eight per cent of individuals arrested for trafficking in narcotics are rearrested on drug charges while out on bail, according to a Justice Department study. One-fourth of bail jumpers in drug cases are aliens caught smuggling drugs into the United States; they simply post bail and leave the country. President Ford wants to close this loophole by allowing judges to deny bail to persons arrested on heroin charges if they have previously been convicted of a drug felony, are already on parole, are nonresident aliens or fugitives, or have been arrested with a false passport.

Attacking the huge profits being made in drug trafficking, President Ford has asked for legislation to require the forfeiting of cash or securities involved in narcotics sales when found in the possession of a drug dealer. The proposed law would also make it easier to search for large sums of money being transported out of the United States to buy drugs or as illegal drug profits going into secret bank accounts abroad.

Still another legal loophole that helps illegal drug trade is the 24-hour grace period given to small, privately owned boats before they must report to customs after arriving in U.S. waters. The time lag gives plenty of opportunity for unloading illegal drugs before inspection. President Ford's proposals call for all boats to report immediately to customs.

These proposals by themselves won't completely solve the nation's nasty and growing narcotics problems. But all of them will be useful tools in the continuing fight against those who are pushing dangerous drugs for personal profit. Congress should lose no time in passing the legislation necessary to put these tools to work.

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JMC file
Drugs

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, inviting Mr. Richard Parsons of my staff and me to appear and give testimony before the newly created Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control.

As you know, the President has a keen interest in reducing the level of drug abuse in the United States and he has made this one of the priority objectives of his Administration. As members of his staff, Mr. Parsons and I have served to communicate the President's interest and policy guidance to the Administration officials having direct program responsibility in this area and to help to insure coordination of the total Federal effort.

I am advised by counsel that, as a matter of principle and precedent, members of the President's immediate staff customarily do not appear before Congressional committees to testify with respect to the performance of their duties on behalf of the President. This limitation, I am further advised, has been recognized by the Congress and the Executive as a principle of comity between the respective Branches. I must, therefore, on behalf of myself and Mr. Parsons, respectfully decline the invitation to testify before the Committee in public hearings.

The creation of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control is a clear sign that the Congress shares the President's sense of concern about the tragic problem of

FORD LIBRARY

drug abuse, and he is eager for those in the Administration with direct program responsibility to work with the Committee in carrying out its mission. Further, I would be pleased to submit to the Committee a written statement concerning the role of the Domestic Council in coordinating drug abuse related activities if it would be helpful.

Sincerely,

James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

The Honorable Lester L. Wolff
Chairman
Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse
and Control
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

LIBRARY

cc: Dick Parsons

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

LESTER L. WOLFF, N.Y., CHAIRMAN

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TOM RAILSBACK, ILL.
LOUIS FREY, JR., FLA.
ROBIN L. BEARD, TENN.
BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, N.Y.
TENNYSON GUYER, OHIO

August 20, 1976

Mr. James M. Cannon
Mr. Richard D. Parsons
The Domestic Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Sirs:

The new Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control has been charged with the responsibility of reviewing in depth all ongoing programs concerned with narcotics traffic and abuse with an objective of recommending to Congress a comprehensive plan of attack on this problem.

In accord with this mandate, while the physical procedures of amassing and reviewing all available material on this subject is underway, the Select Committee will begin a series of hearings to thoroughly ground its membership on the programs of all agencies and departments involved in drug-related activities. Included in the jurisdiction of the Select Committee is the authorization to "review any recommendations made by the President or by any department or agency of the Federal Government, relating to programs or policies affecting narcotics abuse and control."

Since your Council has a responsibility in this area, it would be appreciated if you would make yourself available to appear before the Committee in public hearings during the week of September 20-24, 1976. Should it be necessary for part of your testimony to be taken in executive session, I would appreciate it if you could notify the committee in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

These public hearings will begin the Committee's study of the Federal response to the current drug abuse epidemic. The Select Committee is concered with both the domestic and international aspects of the drug problem and the task of supply and demand reduction. I hope that you will contribute to the efforts of the Select Committee by taking this opportunity to brief the Members of the Select Committee on the scope of your operations and the approach which your organization takes toward the complex issue of narcotics abuse and control.

It would be helpful if you could include in your testimony any recommendations which you feel would improve the effectiveness or the efficiency of the Federal effort to control, treat or prevent drug abuse. Tom Vogel of our staff will be in touch with your secretary to discuss your role in the hearings and the necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,

Lester L. Wolff
Chairman

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R/e
Drugs

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 1976

Dear Madam Ambassador:

I understand that your Mission will host the European Regional Narcotics Coordinators' Conference next week.

As you know, President Ford has made reducing the tragic toll of drug abuse one of his Administration's highest priorities and has invested a great deal of his personal time and attention to this effort over the past fifteen months. He is deeply concerned about the ravages of drug abuse on American society and his commitment to improving the Federal narcotics program is absolute.

Since most seriously abused drugs have their origins in other countries, our ability to deal with the problem depends to a very considerable degree on the capability and interest of other governments to deal with drug trafficking within their borders and to cooperate with us in law enforcement and exchange of information on the international level. Thus, the international narcotics control program is a vital part of the total effort to reduce drug abuse here in the United States.

On behalf of the President, I would like to ask you to underline the importance he places on this program during next week's conference and thank the participants for their efforts to combat drug abuse. I sincerely hope that the conference will go well.

Warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

The Honorable Anne L. Armstrong
American Ambassador
London

CLEARANCE SHEET

DATE: 9-16-76

JMC ACTION
Required by: ASAP, and before c.o.b. 9=17=76

STAFF RESPONSIBILITY PARSONS

SUBJECT: LETTER TO ANNE ARMSTRONG

RECEIVED FROM: _____ DATE RECEIVED: _____

STAFF COMMENTS: Should be signed tonight.

QUERNY/MOORE RECOMMENDATION:

✓ APPROVE

_____ REVIEW & COMMENT

_____ DISCUSS

needs to be signed tonight

AHQ

CANNON ACTION: DATE:

Material Has Been:

_____ Signed and forwarded

_____ Changed and signed

_____ Returned per conversation

_____ Noted

JIM CANNON

Comment:

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SIGNATURE

September 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon

FROM: Dick Parsons D.

SUBJECT: Letter to Anne Armstrong

Attached is a draft letter from you to Ambassador Armstrong which is self-explanatory.

I think it would be useful to convey to her a sense of the importance the President attaches to the drug abuse prevention program so that she, in turn, can convey it to the conferees. (I will not be at the conference since I have been "grounded.") NSC and State concur in the letter. If it meets with your approval, please sign and return it to me. I will give it to Ambassador Vance, who will hand-carry it to London.

Attachment

cc: Dick Parsons

PETER W. RODINO, JR., N.J.
PAUL G. ROGERS, FLA.
KIKA DE LA GARZA, TEX.
JAMES R. MANN, S.C.
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, N.Y.
TENNYSON GUYER, OHIO

Drugs

1976 SEP 21 PM 12 43

Dick —
Pls
send
Jim

September 20, 1976

Dear Mr. Cannon:

Thank you for your letter of September 16, in which you explain why, for reasons of principle and precedent, you and Mr. Richard Parsons are unable to participate directly in the hearings about to be conducted by the Select Committee.

I would like to thank you for your kind offer to provide the Select Committee with a written statement concerning the role of the Domestic Council in coordinating drug abuse related activities. This would be most helpful indeed, and I hope you will send it to us as soon as possible.

I appreciate your kind words about the creation of the Select Committee and look forward to working with you on this important subject in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Lester L. Wolff
Chairman

Mr. James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs
The White House

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092106

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1976

976 SEP 23 PM 2 55

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: DICK PARSONS

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with José Lopez-Portillo

Jim Cannon asked me to give you some talking points concerning the importance of the Mexican drug eradication and interdiction programs for the subject meeting. They are attached.

I hope they are helpful.

cc: Jim Cannon

Dick
Good
Thanks
Jim

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92316

TALKING POINTS

1. As you know, the problem of illicit drug production and trafficking is one which affects millions of citizens of both our countries.
2. I am greatly appreciative of the efforts your government has made to eradicate both opium poppies and marijuana, and to curtail the trafficking of these drugs to the United States. I want to compliment your government for its commitment to this important effort.
3. I would hope most fervantly that you will continue the high priority the eradication and interdiction programs have received over the past several years and that the change-over in governments does not cause any of the momentum to be lost at this critical time.
4. I want you to know that you will have our continuing support and cooperation in dealing with this problem we share. Only by working together can we hope to succeed.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION/DECISION

September 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon

FROM: Dick Parsons D.

SUBJECT: Statement Concerning the Role of the Domestic Council in Coordinating Drug Abuse-Related Activities

Attached is a draft statement concerning the role of the Domestic Council in coordinating the role of the Domestic Council in coordinating drug abuse-related activities.

If the statement meets with your approval, I will transmit, on your behalf, 50 copies to Congressman Wolff for inclusion in the record of the hearings of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control.

Attachment

Dick —
OK. As corrected - pg 1 & 8
and Thanks
Jim

[illegible] 09/10

→ CC: Persons

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

76 OCT 20 PM 11 53

October 12, 1976

Mr. James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Jim:

Many thanks for your letter of September 16th. It was my privilege to open the European Regional Narcotics Conference by welcoming the delegates at the American Embassy. I share the President's great concern about the evils of drug abuse and his belief that only through international control can the problem be reduced in the United States as well as elsewhere in the world.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Anne

Anne Armstrong
Ambassador

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION/
SIGNATURE

October 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon

FROM: Dick Parsons

SUBJECT: Letter of Congratulations to Commandant of Coast Guard re: Interception of Panamanian Freighter and Seizure of Illicit Narcotics

On Friday, October 15, the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Sherman intercepted a Panamanian freighter, the DON EMELIO, in the southeastern Bahamas after receiving permission from the Panamanian Government to board the ship. An incredible 160 tons of marihuana was found aboard the ship and seized. The 28-man crew has been turned over to Panamanian authorities for prosecution. The Coast Guard is still searching for a large quantity of cocaine believed to be aboard the ship.

The size of the seizure is notable in itself (this is the largest seizure of illicit drugs on record). More importantly, the seizure resulted from the close cooperation of the Coast Guard, the U. S. Customs Service, the Drug Enforcement Admistration, the State Department and the Panamanian Government. This is the kind of cooperative effort the President has been urging.

I think a congratulatory letter from you, on behalf of the President, is in order and I have prepared the attached for your review.

Attachment

Dick: Excellent! Jim

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1976

Dear Admiral Siler:

The President has asked me to express to you his personal congratulations on the recent Coast Guard seizure of the Panamanian freighter, the DON EMELIO, and its cargo of illicit drugs. I understand that the 160 tons of marihuana seized represents the largest single seizure in the history of the United States' war against illegal drug trafficking.

As you know, the President is deeply concerned about the problem of drug abuse and he has made reducing its tragic toll one of his highest priorities. He has been especially interested in ensuring that the total resources of the Federal government are brought to bear on this problem in a coordinated manner. The close cooperation of the Coast Guard, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U. S. Customs Service, the Department of State and the Panamanian Government in this case attests to the progress we have made in this regard.

Please extend my personal congratulations to Captain Deillette and the crew of the Cutter Sherman. They have made a valuable contribution to our national program to combat drug abuse.

Sincerely,

James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

Admiral Owen W. Siler, USCG
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
Department of Transportation
Washington, D. C. 20590

cc: The Honorable William T. Coleman

bcc: The Honorable Peter B. Bensinger
The Honorable Vernon D. Acree
The Honorable Sheldon B. Vance

ACTION

DOMESTIC COUNCIL

FROM:

Congressman Charlie Rangel

SUBJECT:

Administration's Drug Abuse control efforts

Date: 11/4/76

COMMENTS:

Expresses particular concern for recent "atrophy" of IRS' Narcotics Trafficking Program.

Expresses support of pending $20.1 million budget supplemental request.

Seeks your reactions.
(Sent to Parsons for draft reply)

Dick Parsons
What is
situation?
Jim

ACTION:

Date:

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CHARLES B. RANGEL
19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

107 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: 202-225-4365

GEORGE A. DALLEY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

PLEASE RESPOND TO
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☐ NEW YORK

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE: Drugs
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

DISTRICT OFFICES:
55 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027
TELEPHONE: 212-348-1600

720 COLUMBUS AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10025
TELEPHONE: 212-850-1500

MS. VIVIAN JONES
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

November 4, 1976

The Honorable James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President for
Domestic Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Cannon:

I have followed closely the President's pronouncements and actions in the renewed war against drug abuse. My general concern is that there appears to be a gap between the actions proposed and the resources committed.

Specifically, I am distressed that the Narcotics Trafficking Program (NTP) in the Internal Revenue Service has atrophied during the last two years and that resources previously devoted to it have been diverted to other priority efforts in the Service. I am also confused about the Service's position on structuring the NTP into a viable and identifiable organizational entity where devoted resources -- manpower and dollars -- can be easily counted and results can be appropriately attributed. I am further concerned that IRS policy-makers may place too much emphasis on revenue-producing potential when deciding relative priorities of various programs.

I am aware that the IRS has a pending supplemental budget request under review in OMB for $20.1 million which purportedly would provide ample resources for an effective NTP. I would be happy to support a request for additional resources, if needed, and if the resources were clearly targeted toward suspected tax evaders involved in narcotics who otherwise escape the arm of the law.

I would appreciate your reaction to these concerns. I hope that you and others in the Executive Branch will work together to bring about an early and effective IRS contribution to a coordinated Federal attack on narcotics law offenders.

Sincerely,

Charlie

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

CBR:ekb

cc: James T. Lynn, OMB
Donald C. Alexander, IRS

CC: Dick Parsons

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

1976 NOV 26 PM 1 53

NOV 24 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE JAMES M. CANNON

SUBJECT: FEDERAL STRATEGY FOR DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG TRAFFIC PREVENTION 1976

The Department has reviewed the final draft of the Federal Strategy for Drug Abuse and Drug Traffic Prevention. We concur on the draft currently being considered.

Robert L. DuPont, M.D.
Executive Director
Cabinet Committee on Drug Abuse
Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation

11261

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
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U.S.MAIL

Honorable James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
For Domestic Affairs
White House
Washington, D.C.

82

Justice Drugs

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 16, 1976

Charley

Dear ~~Congressman~~ Rangel:

Thank you for your letter of November 4, concerning the Narcotics Trafficking Program of the Internal Revenue Service.

As you know, the President agrees with you concerning the importance of this program in dealing with high level drug traffickers. Accordingly, at his direction the IRS and the Drug Enforcement Administration have signed a Memorandum of Understanding under which the names of 375 suspected drug violators have already been provided to the IRS for follow-up audit if appropriate. In short, the program is now underway.

As for budgetary resources, the pending FY 1977 supplemental is now being reviewed along with the FY 1978 budget. In light of the importance of this program, I feel certain that the President's January budget recommendations will contain adequate funds to enable the IRS to carry on a vigorous attack against narcotic traffickers.

On behalf of the President, I want to thank you for your continued interest in and support of this vital program.

Sincerely,

Jim

James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

ACTION

DOMESTIC COUNCIL

FROM:

Parsons

SUBJECT:

Letter to you from Cong. Rangel re: war on drugs

Date: 12/15

COMMENTS:

Parsons prepared the attached letter which I modified as indicated. Do you know what budget decisions were made on this (i.e. to make sure your statement re: budget is correct)?

A.

ACTION:

Date:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1976 DEC 15 AM 11 50

Jim —

Per your request, a draft response to Rangel's letter is attached.

Dick

141505

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1976

Dear Congressman Rangel:

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As for budgetary resources, the pending FY 1977 supplemental is now being reviewed along with the FY 1978 budget. In light of the importance of this program, I feel certain that the President's January budget recommendations will contain adequate funds to enable the IRS to ~~more vigorously~~ carry on a vigorous ~~press the~~ attack against narcotic traffickers.

On behalf of the President, I want to thank you for your continued interest in and support of this vital program.

Sincerely,

James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 11/15

TO: Dick P

FROM: ALLEN MOORE

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

FYI:

for draft reply, or other action if appropriate.

CHARLES B. RANGEL
19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

107 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: 202-225-4365

GEORGE A. DALLEY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

PLEASE RESPOND TO
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November 4, 1976

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Assistant to the President for
Domestic Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C.

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Sincerely,

Charlie

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

CBR:ekb

cc: James T. Lynn, OMB