MEMO TO: The Speaker FROM: Spencer Smith

SUBJECT: Social Security -- Committee Action

Major provisions of new Social Security bill are as follows:

1. Increase in wage base

PRESENT LAW		COMMITTEE BILL
\$17,000	1978	\$19,900
\$18,900	1979	\$22,900
\$20,400	1980	\$25,900
\$21,900	1981	\$27,900

After 1981 the wage base is indexed.

- 2. Integration of Federal Civil Service Retirement and Social Security Program by 1982 -- the Administration to report to Congress by 1980.
- 3. Increase in tax rates to .05% in 1981.
- Increase earnings limitation to \$4,000 1978 \$4,500 1979.

Restricted to only those 65 or over. From 62 to 65 continue under present restrictions.

- 5. Decouple future benefits from haphazard wage and price fluctuations.
- 6. Reallocate to Hospital Insurance Fund .05% for employer and employee each from 1978 to 1980.
- 7. Limitation of windfall costs of living for early retirees.
- 8. Remove discrimination which reduces the benefits of a widow receiving Social Security when she marries a widower receiving Social Security. Under new provisions no reduction in benefits.
- 9. Benefit qualifications for depending presently call for 20 years of marriage with spouse under Social Security. Would change to 5 years.
- 10. Self employment tax returns to original amount of 1.1/2 times the employee and employer combined tax.

Trust Fund is basically solvent through turn of centur.

Ways and Means will ask for a modified close Rule that will make the following amendments in order:

- 1. Strike universal coverage and increase tax rate by .15%.
 - -- Fisher will offer.
 - -- Waggonner amendment to delete Federal workers lost in Committee 13 Y to 22 N.
 - -- Fisher amendment to postpone coverage until 1984 was modified by Gibbons amendment to 1982. Carried 23 Y to 12 N.
- Reduce wage base and increase tax rate.
 Will be offered by Jenkins. Not voted on in Committee.
- 3. Strike the authority to borrow from the general fund of Treasury.
 -- Will be offered by Pickle lost in Committee 18 Y to 19 N.
- 4. Remove earnings limitation and reduce wage base and increase tax rate.
 - -- Steiger will offer several versions lost by voice vote in Committee.
- 5. Remove earnings limitation by phasing out -- per Republican substitute.
 - -- Ketchum no vote in Committee.
- 6. National Commission to study Social Security programs to report back in 2 years.
 - -- Offered by Jenkins. Lost on 3 years in Committee 13 Y to 20 N.
- 7. Prevent those who contributed the minimum from claiming minimum benefits.
 - -- Corman will offer only if universal coverage is omitted.
 - -- Jacobs amendment aimed at Federal workers only. Lost in Committee 5 Y to 27 N .
 - -- Archer amendment broadened categories of those affected. Lost 6 Y to 24 N.

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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

September 19, 1977

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

Tuesday, September 20, 1977 Family Dining Room 8:00 a.m.

From: Frank Moore

I. PARTICIPANTS

See Attached List

II. PRESS PLAN

White House Photo only

III. TALKING POINTS

As much as possible, I recommend that discussion be kept to two topics: the Breeder (House) and Energy (Senate.)

1. The Breeder. The vote is scheduled for this week. We do not know the exact day yet. We are supporting the Brown amendment to reduce the funding level from \$150 M to \$33M.

Although we have picked up some support, we are still down. The Speaker and his staff have been going all out to help on this. You need to encourage the other members of the House leadership to help actively.

2. Energy. On Monday, the Committee voted unanimously to provide "some sort of tax incentive"for solar, wind and geothermal energy and, with 2 absentees yet to vote, the Committee voted not to provide tax incentives for residential insulation (8-8 tie vote). This latter development is only tentative. It is very unlikely that the Committee will finish action on the bill this week, but a decision on the crude oil equalization and user taxes is likely later in the week.

PARTICIPANTS

The President

The Vice President

Majority Leader Byrd Senator Cranston Senator Eastland

Speaker O'Neill
Representative Wright
Representative Foley
Representative Brademas
Representative Rostenkowski
Representative Chisholm

Frank Moore Stu Eizenstat Dan Tate Bill Cable Jim Free Bill Smith

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THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

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THE VICE PRESIDENT

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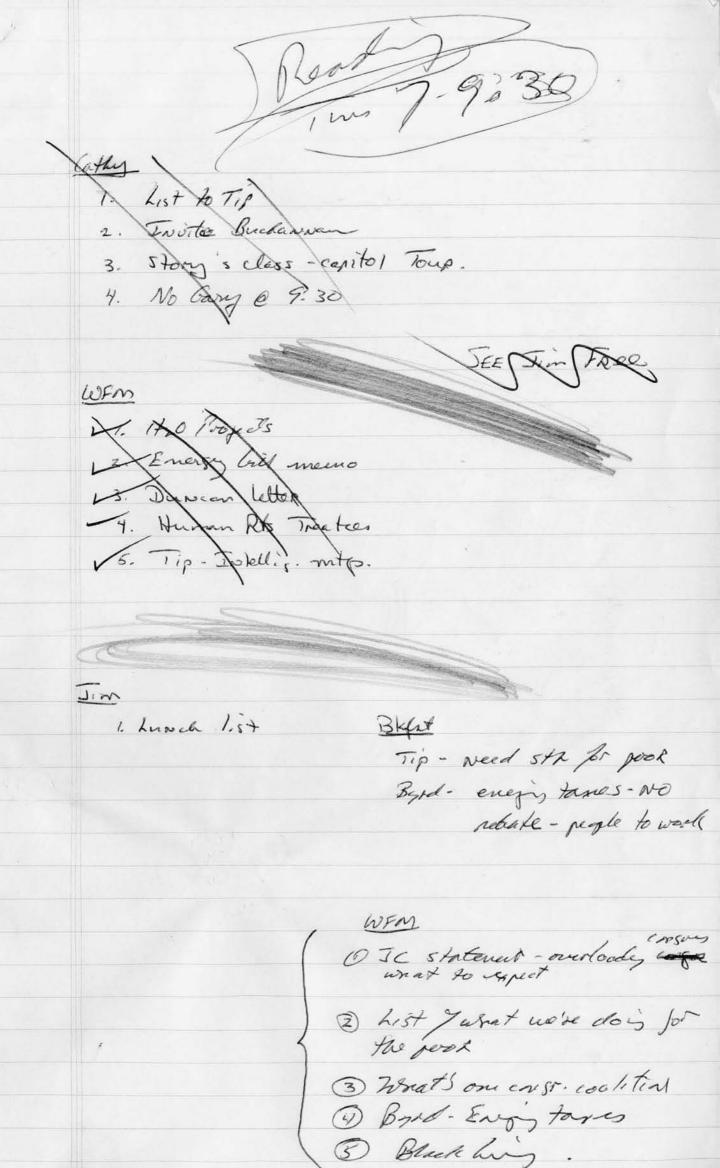
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Honorable John Brademas Majority Whip House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear John:

Following this morning's Leadership Breakfast, the Vice President asked that I send you the enclosed materials on President Ford's criticism of the Carter Administration.

Sincerely,

William C. Smith Assistant to the Vice President for Congressional Relations

Enclosures

Same letter went to Crantson, Byrd, Rostenkowski & O'Neill



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

April 19, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bill Smith

RE: Ford Criticism of Carter -- Leadership Breakfast

Talking Points

Chronology of Ford Criticism of the Carter Administration

Most former Presidents have waited a respectable period before criticizing their successor's policies. Gerald Ford waited only two months before his first implied criticism and less than three months before taking the gloves off.

- On March 20, Ford endorsed the proposed energy Department, "provided it is not a public relations gimmick."
- On March 24 in a New York City speech, Ford said that the Senate, while voting to confirm Warnke, had sent "its own" message to Russia about the Soviet arms buildup and the SALT talks.
- 3. On March 27, Ford said President Carter was on the verge of losing the battle against inflation because of his revisions in Ford's budget and will have to learn to deal with a free spending, "irresponsible" Democratic Congress.
- 4. On April 16, last Saturday, Ford stated, "Mr. Carter's anti-inflation program came in like a lion. It's going out like a mouse," said the program was "just talk", and announced he plans to speak out against the Administration whenever he feels like it. Ford also criticized the

universal voter registration bill as encouraging fraud and opposed revisions of the Hatch Act, commenting that Carter has "done a superb PR job."

Past Presidents' Criticism of Their Successors

While time has not permitted an exhaustive search, I think it is safe to say the following:

- 1. Lyndon Johnson avoided criticizing Nixon for nearly two years. A Washington Post article on December 2, 1971 quotes Johnson as saying the fact that he had kept silent until then did not mean that he agreed with all Nixon's policies. Before that, Johnson apparently made a number of statements supporting Nixon on Viet Nam.
- 2. The first, at least major, publicized conflict between Eizenhower and Kennedy occurred eight months after Kennedy's inauguration when in October 1961 a State Department report critical of Eisenhower's World War II leadership was publicized. Thereafter, Eisenhower criticized Kennedy's foreign policy and, among other things, called the Peace Corps a "juvenile experiment." Democratic Senators replied to Eisenhower's criticisms.

I am not sure whether countering Ford serves only to build him up for 1980 and solidify Republicans in Congress against Administration policy, but there are two points that you might want to make to the Leadership:

First, it would be helpful if it were pointed out that Ford has not even waited the traditional 100 days; and

Second, Ford will likely criticize selected energy policy proposals. It would be helpful if House and Senate Democrats could be ready to respond, especially with the point that a national energy crisis deserves better than partisan sniping.

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commitment will come in the spring, when, if the Carter package is passed, the rebate checks will flood the country with spendable money.

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The President could mend a few fences on the Hill, it is noted, if he started putting some food on the plates for those weekly breakfasts for congressional leaders. Speaker Tip O'Neill, for instance, fluctuates around 250 pounds, and needs more than he gets at the White House. "I guess you'd call it a continental breakfast," he said. "You know, orange juice, a roll and a cup of coffee. It must be that economy wave that's hitting the White House." Maybe a dollop of grits would do it.

anatore Trans



THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

February 14, 1977

Memorandum for The President

The Vice President From:

Congressional Leadership Breakfasts Re:

I suggest that Congressional Leadership breakfasts be held weekly instead of bi-weekly, at least for the next few months.

Weekly meetings would provide a greater opportunity for the Congressional Leaders to make suggestions, voice their concerns and speak their minds. It might also avoid having any future Congressional relations problems simmer for an extended time before the next meeting.

In addition, I think that during the early months of your administration it is important to provide as many opportunities as possible for Congressional Leaders and members of your administration to become better acquainted and more at ease with each other in an effort to foster informal, free and candid discussion.

Finally, the period between now and May 15 when the first Congressional Budget Resolution must be passed and all authorization bills for next fiscal year must be reported under the Congressional Budget Act is a critical time for the administration's legislative program. Close and frequent consultation with Congressional Leaders will be helpful in the scheduling of legislation to meet these deadlines.

I believe it would also be helpful to set aside one breakfast every month or six weeks for a joint leadership meeting, inviting the House and Senate Republican Leaders and Whips. The margin of difference on many close votes may well be determined by the number of Minority party House and Senate Members willing to vote for an administration position. The cooperation of the Minority Leadership will, at least occasionally, be helpful in such instances, and their periodic inclusion at Leadership meetings with you will help foster their cooperation.

Not delivere

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

February 14, 1977

Memorandum for the Vice President

From: Bill Smith

Re: Weekly Congressional Leadership Breakfasts

Attached is a memo to the President suggesting weekly Congressional Leadership breakfasts, in case you want to bring this up at lunch today.

However, before raising this with the President, perhaps I should find out whether it was his, Byrd's, O'Neill's, or Frank Moore's idea to have bi-weekly meetings, and if so, why. Also, you may want to discuss this with Byrd (tomorrow morning) and O'Neill (at lunch next week) before raising it with the President.

I note also in the <u>Washington Post</u> this morning that the Speaker is complaining that he is not getting a full breakfast.



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