

Office of Economic Stabilization

Box 161

2 items

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*Byrnes folder  
2-42*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Personal File*

December 18, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. JAMES F. BYRNES

I understand a man named Weigel is Regional Director of OPA in the Illinois area and is a great friend of Frank Bane -- that Weigel is the kind of bitter Republican who blames shortages of oil, fuel, meat, etc., on the New Deal in Washington.

If this is true he should be replaced, and I suggest consideration of Congressman McKeough for the job.

F. D. R.

*Ltr. 12/17/42 from Mayor Ede. J. Kelly re  
putting man on claimant agencies filed -  
Gen. Cones J. 3-42*

P-291

PSF Office of Economic Stabilization  
folder 2-94

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. FRED M. VINSON:

Why don't you and Marvin Jones send for O'Neal and ask him just what the Farm Bureau Federation thinks it is doing? You might then ask him further if he wants a public investigation of the Farm Bureau Federation.

Politically, it might be a good thing to have a real fight with the Farm Bureau Federation. Most of the offices are against the Administration anyway and if we could get some really bad facts about the Federation, a very large number of its membership resent the tremendous amount of money that the Federation spends every year in what amounts to plain politics.

And I do not think that O'Neal would court an investigation at this time. His own house needs too much cleaning.

I do not think that the Extension Service wants too much investigation at the present time either.

F.D.R.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC STABILIZATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



FRED M. VINSON  
DIRECTOR

May 31, 1944

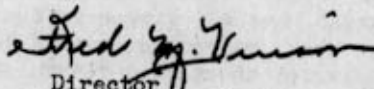
THE WHITE HOUSE  
JUN 1 10 57 AM '44  
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

Attached is a letter which I have sent to Marvin Jones with reference to repeated complaints filed by Jim Patton with respect to the activities of the Extension Service in helping organize local units of the Farm Bureau, and in circulating propaganda hostile to the government's stabilization policy.

Of course, I do not believe that Marvin Jones desires these activities to continue or condones them in any way. The difficulty is, of course, to work out proper methods to control and discipline those who are using government money to favor a particular organization and to fight the government's own policies.

Sincerely yours,

  
Director

The President

The White House



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC STABILIZATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



May 30, 1944

DIRECTOR

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Honorable Marvin Jones  
Administrator  
War Food Administration  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Marvin:

Enclosed is some material which I have received from Jim Patton and one of his associates. Whenever these people write me, I tell them -- and it is the truth -- that these matters do not come within my jurisdiction and that there is little or nothing that I can do.

However, in the interest of our common program and of the administration, I want to express to you my personal opinion that a most unhealthy situation exists. If government funds are being used to build up a favored organization and to help that organization fight against the policies of the National Government, the result is wholly absurd. By the admission contained in Mr. Wilson's own letter with reference to the Arkansas situation, the Extension Service there is helping organize the Farm Bureau; and evidently the same thing is true in Nebraska. In addition, Extension Service funds are being used in New York State to spread propaganda against subsidies -- propaganda which, in my opinion, is full of misleading statements and untruth.

Is there not something which can be done to remedy this situation? I have noticed in the past that whenever employees of the Department of Agriculture were accused of activities favorable to other farm organizations, means were found to exercise discipline. Are those whose favoritism smiles upon the Farm Bureau and the Cornell crackpots exempt from discipline?

I write this in no spirit of querulous criticism. Your support for the administration's economic program has been consistent and invaluable. These activities are as much a blow at your Office as at mine. I only hope that there is some way we can work out together to deal with this vexatious misconduct on the part of those whose salaries are provided in part by the Federal Government.

Sincerely yours,

*Fred W. Johnson*  
Director

Enclosures