

PSF Reorganization

1 set of papers

Subject File

Box 177

PSF: Reorganization
Box 177

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

I wish to call attention to the need for amending Section 12 of the Reorganization Act of 1939 to extend the time for submission of reorganization plans to the Congress. This period elapses January twentieth.

I have often pointed out that in normal times continuous change in organization must be made to keep abreast of changing policies and programs. Such flexibility is imperative in times of emergency when world as well as domestic conditions may change over night.

This device for effecting adjustments in administrative organization has the merit of joint action by the President and Congress with a minimum of delay.

The President is able to initiate changes in administrative organization when they become necessary, and at the same time the Congress can overrule any proposal of which it disapproves. This procedure is both expeditious and democratic.

I, therefore, believe it would be in the public interest for Congress to extend this time limit *for one or two years.*



THE WHITE HOUSE,

January 16, 1941.

PSF: Reorganization

MESSAGE TO CONGRESS RECOMMENDING THE
CONTINUANCE OF THE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1939

1 I wish to call attention to the need for amending Section 12 of the Reorganization Act of 1939 to extend the time for submission of reorganization plans to the Congress. This period elapses January twentieth.

2 I have often pointed out that in normal times continuous change in organization must be made to keep abreast of changing policies and programs. Such flexibility is imperative in times of emergency when world as well as domestic conditions may change over night.

3 This device for effecting adjustments in administrative organization has the merit of joint action by the President and Congress ~~but~~ with a minimum of delay. ~~avoid the possible delay often incident to the normal processing of bills through the Congress.~~ 4 The President is able to initiate changes in administrative organization when they become necessary, and at the same time the Congress can overrule any proposal of which it disapproves. This procedure is both expeditious and democratic.

During the critical years of 1917-18, many adjustments in organization were found necessary. Since 1918 we have made many improvements in the organization of the Government and we are much better prepared to deal with national crises today than at that time. Further adjustments in the Government's administrative machinery will of course be needed. Thus I believe it important that the President and Congress should not abandon the existing reorganization procedure.

The ability of our governmental agencies to make the fullest contribution to the defense program is largely dependent upon the speed

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with which they can be adjusted to new and unforeseen problems. Our democracy must be able to mobilize its administrative resources to the full to meet any challenge.

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ALTERNATE DRAFT OF MESSAGE
ON EXTENSION OF REORGANIZATION ACT

~~The authority to submit reorganization plans expires~~

5 ~~January 20.~~ ^{Therefore,} I believe it would be in the public interest for Congress to extend this time limit.

~~We are well along in our united effort to define the national defense program and to put it into action through the appropriate agencies of the Government. I believe it important that the Congress and the President not lose the means to deal promptly with any organization bottleneck that might develop.~~

The procedure prescribed in the Reorganization Act is simple, expeditious, and provides adequately for Congressional review of any proposal that may be submitted.

N J. COCHRAN
7TH DIST. MISSOURI

PSF: Reorganization

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS
CHAIRMAN, SELECT HOUSE COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION
EXPENDITURES IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPA
MENTS
COINAGE, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION
WILDLIFE RESOURCES
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

April 4, 1941

PERSONAL

Honorable Harold D. Smith
Director
Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Smith:

The Speaker has gone to Texas and will be away until about a week from Sunday. I have talked with Mr. McCormack, the leader, and he said he thought the best thing to do was to wait until the Speaker returns and we will have a conference before coming to any decision.

In my opinion there is only one group that would offer any opposition and that is the representatives interested in the Forest Service. We have always been able in the House to defeat amendments to exempt the Forest Service on reorganization bills but it was a rather bitter quarrel. You know what happened last year when the President was anxious to send an Executive Order transferring part of the Forest Service to the Interior Department. As I understand it, Senator Byrnes made such a protest in view of an alleged promise he said he had received, that the Order was never sent down, although at a conference we had with the President one day he read the Order to us and, in my opinion, gave an excellent explanation as to why such a transfer was advisable.

Just as soon as the Speaker returns, I will have a talk with him and Mr. McCormack.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Cochran

J. COCHRAN
Dist. Missouri

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERV
COMMISSION

Personal

April 15, 1941

Honorable Harold D. Smith
Director
Bureau of the Budget
State Department Building
Seventeenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Smith:

I had a talk with the Speaker and Majority Leader McCormack yesterday in reference to our conversation relative to the passage of a resolution extending the date under which the President might submit additional reorganization orders. They felt that it was an inopportune time for him to make the request now. Mr. Rayburn indicated that he would discuss it with the President at one of their conferences.

You know every time we want to do something to give the President some power it generally results in the Republicans opposing the legislation. Take for instance the authorization for the Office of Government Reports a few weeks ago.

We have another fight on our hands very shortly when it will be necessary to extend the time of the Stabilization Act and granting the power to the President to revalue the dollar. That must be passed before July 1, 1941. I happen to be the ranking member of the Coinage, Weights and Measures Committee that will consider that legislation and I know we will have a fight on our hands then.

The purpose of this letter is simply to make a report as I promised I would do.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

John J. Cochran

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

April 16,
1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I am returning to you herewith the Message extending reorganization authority which so far as I am concerned could be sent to the Congress without change.

I wish to call your attention to the letters from Cochran which may or may not have a bearing on the timing in sending up the Message.

As I reported to you I talked with Senator Byrnes, who sees no objection to sending it up. I would be glad if you would return the Cochran letters to this office when you are through with them.

W. L. ...
Director

Attachments

PSF: Reorgo

April 17, 1941.

Dear Jack:-

Harold Smith has shown me your letter of April fifteenth in regard to the short message asking for a Resolution allowing submitting of additional reorganization orders. I wish you would talk this over with Jimmy Byrnes, the Speaker, and John McCormack and agree on when you all think I should send such a message.

Always sincerely,

Honorable John J. Cochran,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

COCHRAN
Missouri

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
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WILDLIFE RESOURCES
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

April 18, 1941

THE WHITE HOUSE

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RECEIVED

Mr. President:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter. The Speaker is going away this weekend if we adjourn today; in fact, I will be with him. We are going to try to catch a few fish.

Early next week I will get the Senator, the Speaker and Mr. McCormack together and come to some agreement in reference to the submission of a resolution permitting you to submit additional reorganization orders.

With assurance of my high esteem, I am

Sincerely yours,

John J. Cochran

The President

The White House

PSF: Reorganization

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND

RETURN FOR MY FILES.

F. D. R.

Letter from Cong. John J. Cochran, 4/23/41 to the President, in reply to President's letter of 4/17/41, in connection with short message asking for a Resolution allowing submitting of additional reorganization orders. The Speaker feels that this is an inopportune time to submit the message; Sen Byrnes said he felt that the President should fully realize that if the message is sent to Congress there will be a fight on the Resolution and was frank to say that it would be based on the opposition of those who do not want the Forest Service disturbed, but that he would be willing to introduce the Resolution in the Senate;

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET:

For your information.

F. D. R.

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior
5/9/41 to the President, in re reorgani
resolution. States that Mr. Rayburn th
that it should be brought up at a later
but that Messrs. Byrnes, Cochran and Mc
are ready to go ahead with it now.

PSF: Reorganization

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

May 14, 1941.

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET:**

For your information.

F. D. R.

Letter from Cong. John J. Cochran, 5/9/41 to the President, in further reference to Reorganization matter. States that as soon as he can get matter of extension of date for the operation of the Stabilization Fund and the power to revalue the dollar, out of the way, he will get busy on President's suggestion in re Reorganization.

PSF: Reorganization folder
4-42

January 23, 1942

Respectfully referred to the
Director of the Bureau of the Budget
for recommendation in accordance with the
provisions of Executive Order issued
February 18, 1936.

M. H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, 1/23/42, to the
President, enclosing draft of a proposed Executive Order
"Providing for the Wartime Coordination of Federal Forestry
Functions". The Secretary feels that this would be an excellent
time to transfer Forestry under the powers that the President
now has.