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Competitiveness

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RICHARD M. DEVENS, JR.
9106 BRADFORD ROAD
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20901

4/17/89
AC sent L/w note.
LH

April 6, 1989

Mr. Andrew H. Card, Jr.
Assistant to the President and
Deputy to the Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Andy:

The recent formation of the White House Council on Competitiveness is an important step toward addressing one of the critical issues of our time. I would like to contribute.

Given the Council's commitment to using existing Executive branch staff, I can be handy as an career-service professional of whom you have some personal knowledge and trust. I recently performed duties similar to those that will be required by the Council as a senior staff economist for the Secretary of Labor's Task Force on Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment.

The findings of that Task Force, in defiance of long Civil Service tradition, were quickly reflected in legislation. The Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act is now an important part of the human resources side of current policies affecting our competitive stance.

I look forward to the possibility of working with you again. Please call me at any time to discuss what contribution I can make.

Sincerely.



Richard M. Devens, Jr.

Telephone: (W) 202-523-1694
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Governor —

Here's VP's memo to Pres on Compet. Council, along with the proposed page in backup book for budget speech.

Our suggestion (me, Andy, Roger, Boyden & David) is to make the change in last paragraph in order to keep control of non-regulatory subjects The VP's Council can take up. Important that issue decisions go thru DPC/EPC process. Thanks Jim 2/3

Document Originally
Attached to
Following Page

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20270

January 11, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: George Bush

FROM: Dan Quayle

SUBJECT: Presidential Council on Competitiveness

I recommend that you establish a Presidential Council on Competitiveness, chaired by the Vice President, which could perform some of the functions of the Task Force on Regulatory Relief, but give a different focus to our efforts to move the economy forward.

The rationale for this change is that much of the regulatory relief effort can now be handled by OMB. A new emphasis on competitiveness could give substantial backup to OMB in continuing deregulation efforts while at the same time focusing efforts on human resource development and other issues critical to a Bush presidency.

The Council would be established by a Presidential memorandum making the following basic points:

The continued economic progress of the United States demands that we maintain and improve our international competitiveness position.

The competitive position depends on: the full development of our human resource potential; the promotion of scientific and technological progress; removal of barriers to innovation; careful assessment of any governmentally-imposed burdens on the free enterprise system; and removal of artificial barriers to the flow of trade.

In order to ensure that our policies are consistent with these basic objectives, there is established the Presidential Council on Competitiveness. The Council will be chaired by the Vice President and shall include: the Attorney General, the ~~Chairman~~ of the Domestic Policy Council, the Chairman of the Council on Economic Advisers, the Director of OMB and the Special Trade Representative.

It shall be the function of the Council to review proposed budget, regulatory or legislative initiatives to ensure their consistency with the purposes of this order. Matters may be brought to the Council at the direction of the President, on its own initiative or at the request of any member.

EPC
DPC
Coun
ASTR
CEA
OMB
Porton
Council

Feb 9 - spec

Replacement - Final

This was approved by the President
in the Vice President's presence.
per Gov. Summers

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

I. OVERVIEW

Maintaining and improving the nation's competitiveness is primarily a task of private industry - driven by market forces. But government policies play an important role, in both the negative and positive sense. Barriers erected by government - regulatory and otherwise - can frustrate innovation and the translation of technological and scientific discoveries into marketplace production and distribution. Government - Federal, state and local - is a major player in the development of our human resources, including education and training.

Americans have become acutely conscious of the issue of competitiveness since the development in the decade of the 1980's of large foreign trade deficits. While the strong showing of exports in 1988 indicated that much of American industry is able to compete well in world markets provided it is not hampered by an unrealistically high exchange rate for the dollar, much remains to be done to reduce and then eliminate the trade deficit.

The Federal government has a continuing challenge in assuring that this nation remains fully competitive in a world environment where exchanges among nations are growing rapidly.

II PRINCIPLES:

To maintain and improve competitiveness several principles are important:

- o There must be the fullest development of our human resources.
- o Scientific and technological progress must be ^{advanced,} promoted.
- o Barriers to innovation must be removed.
- o Government regulations must continue to be assessed for their costs as well as their benefits.

III. POLICIES:

The President will establish a Council on Competitiveness, chaired by the Vice-President. The Council will include the members of the cabinet most involved with competitiveness issues and problems.

~~And such other issues as may be referred by the Pres~~
The Council will review regulatory and human resource issues, bearing on competitiveness. In reviewing regulatory matters, the Council will be continuing the work of the former President's Task Force on Regulatory Relief -- chaired in the Reagan Administration by then-Vice President Bush.

Send a copy
to Jim Cicconi