

5/31/77 – Not Submitted [CF, O/A 548]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*4/26/78
done by Jamel*

Date: May 31, 1977

MEMORANDUM

FOR ACTION:

Hamilton Jordan

FOR INFORMATION:

*11/15
in w/ check with
who will decide in December
app x 12/15, per Jamel*

FROM: Rick Hutcheson, Staff Secretary

SUBJECT:

Secretary Bergland's letter of 5/26/77
re appointment of Byron G. Allen to the
Federal Council on the Aging

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE DELIVERED
TO THE STAFF SECRETARY BY:

TIME: INDEFINITE
DAY: STAFFING
DATE:

ACTION REQUESTED:

Your comments

Other:

STAFF RESPONSE:

I concur.

No comment.

Please note other comments below:

*8/20 per Eleanore
Hamilton sent to Crockett (Fed Council
on Aging)
who is working on this
with Mrs Bates
Bergland was informed.
- no need to go to President.
HBJ*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately. (Telephone, 7052)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Indefinite Staffing

ACTION	FYI
	MONDALE
	COSTANZA
	EIZENSTAT
X	JORDAN
	LIPSHUTZ
	MOORE
	POWELL
	WATSON

	ENROLLED BILL
	AGENCY REPORT
	CAB DECISION
	EXECUTIVE ORDER

Comments due to
Carp/Huron within
48 hours; due to
Staff Secretary
next day

X	FOR STAFFING
	FOR INFORMATION
	FROM PRESIDENT'S OUTBOX
	LOG IN/TO PRESIDENT TODAY
	IMMEDIATE TURNAROUND

	ARAGON
	BOURNE
	BRZEZINSKI
	BUTLER
	CARP
	H. CARTER
	CLOUGH
	FALLOWS
	FIRST LADY
	GAMMILL
	HARDEN
	HOYT
	HUTCHESON
	JAGODA
X	KING

	KRAFT
	LANCE
	LINDER
	MITCHELL
	POSTON
	PRESS
	B. RAINWATER
	SCHLESINGER
	SCHNEIDERS
	SCHULTZE
	SIEGEL
	SMITH
	STRAUSS
	WELLS
	VOORDE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5/31/77

TO: RICK HUTCHESON

For Your Information: _____

For Appropriate Handling: x

RDL (mc)
Robert D. Linder

76

encl.

RL



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

May 26 1977

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

One third of older Americans live in rural America, and they feel the impact of many of the problems that characterize rural communities such as poor housing, lack of transportation and limited medical care. I am very concerned about the elderly and feel a special obligation rests upon the Department of Agriculture to address their problems as we are doing cooperatively with the Administration on Aging.

Under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, the Federal Council on the Aging is charged with the responsibility of advising and assisting the President on matters relating to the special needs of older Americans. The members of this Council are nominated by you, Mr. President, and I would be delighted if you would nominate for membership on the Federal Council on the Aging a gentleman who knows rural America in a unique way and who is also very well qualified to speak for the rural elderly. His name is Mr. Byron G. Allen of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Mr. Allen is a man of uncommon compassion for people and has an intimate knowledge of their problems as rural residents and as human beings. The enclosed biographical information will reflect some of the character of the man, but to those of us who have known Mr. Allen the human dimensions far exceed these benchmarks of personal achievement.

Respectfully,

BOB BERGLAND
Secretary

BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

OF

Mr. Byron Gilchrist Allen

Box 350
Detroit Lakes
Minnesota, 56501

Mr. Allen was born in Laurens, Iowa, September 13, 1901, Pocahontas County, and was educated in the public schools of Laurens and Pocahontas. He attended Iowa State University and was graduated with a B.S. degree in 1932 with a specialty in Agriculture. He attended Drake University Law School. His academic interests revolved around farm management, economics and sociology.

In 1926 Mr. Allen was elected by the citizens of Pocahontas County to the General Assembly of Iowa at the age of twenty-five. He was re-elected for two additional terms.

In 1932 the Democratic Party won major victories for the first time in Iowa in a generation. Mr. Allen moved to Washington, D.C. to work in the office of Senator Brookhart. But shortly thereafter Governor Clyde L. Herring (Dem) asked Mr. Allen to return to Iowa to take over the post of Secretary of the State Senate which he held until April of 1934.

In 1934 the Iowa Legislature established the State Board of Social Welfare. Mr. Allen was appointed the Superintendent of the Administration on Old Age Assistance and other Public Assistance. Mr. Allen did extensive research in the experience of other State governments in establishing a civil service system as well as the development of a program of assistance to the elderly. He wrote the first civil service manual for personnel working in the field of old age assistance entitled, "A Handbook for County Old Age Assistance Boards and Investigators". It has undergone many revisions as the civil service system has developed, and has been used by other States as a guide book.

Iowa initiated a social security system prior to the enactment of the Social Security Act, and its Board of Commissioners was qualified by the Social Security Administration. A detailed description of this innovative old age assistance program was written up by Professor Paul H. Douglas of the University of Chicago and later United States Senator, and Mr. Abraham Epstein, founder of the American Association for Old Age Pensions. Mr. Allen gave several guest lectures on establishing a civil service system for people working in the field of the aging at the New School for Social Research, New York. In 1940 there was a change of political power in Iowa, and Mr. Allen moved to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota to assist his father Mr. Joe Allen in managing several farms.

Mr. Allen was asked to serve on the National Committee for Agriculture by the Democratic National Committee for the election of 1940. He had charge of the "agriculture speakers bureau" and organized a Negro Speakers Bureau. In addition Mr. Allen conducted a daily radio program over a national hook-up at which time he interviewed farm leaders and farmers.

In the period 1940 to 1944 Mr. Allen was active in Democratic politics in Minnesota and along with Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Governor Karl Rolvaag, Governor Orville Freeman and many other public figures brought about the union of the Farmer Labor Party and the Democratic Party. In 1944 Mr. Allen was the first candidate for Governor of the newly formed DFL Party. His

campaign manager that year was Hubert H. Humphrey, Mayor, City of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. Allen became the Democratic National Committeemen from Minnesota in 1948 and held that position until 1955.

Governor Orville Freeman appointed Mr. Allen Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Minnesota in 1955, and he served in that office until Governor Freeman became Secretary of Agriculture in the Kennedy Administration in January 1961.

Secretary Freeman appointed Mr. Allen to be the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, U.S.D.A. in 1961 and he held that Office until January of 1969 at which time the Nixon Administration replaced him.

Mr. Allen returned to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota in 1969 to manage his father's estate consisting of a number of farms, in the Red River Valley. He is currently residing in the Lamplighter's Manor of the Immanuel Nursing Home where his wife is a patient. He is seventy-six years old, but is in excellent health. He is vigorous both physically and mentally and displays a keen interest in people and their problems.