

[6/2/78-Not Submitted] [CF, O/A 548]

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WASHINGTON

DATE: 02 JUN 78

FOR ACTION: PHIL WISE

FRAN VOORDE

*DF
Hold*
X

INFO ONLY: TIM KRAFT

JODY POWELL

ANNE WEXLER

SUBJECT: WATSON MEMO RE ATTENDANCE AT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA

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+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +
+ BY: 0900 AM TUESDAY 06 JUN 78 +
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ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: () I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

Camp David that weekend

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOR STAFFING
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOR INFORMATION
	FROM PRESIDENT'S OUTBOX
	LOG IN/TO PRESIDENT TODAY
	IMMEDIATE TURNAROUND
	NO DEADLINE
	LAST DAY FOR ACTION -

ACTION
FYI

	ADMIN CONFID
	CONFIDENTIAL
	SECRET
	EYES ONLY

	VICE PRESIDENT
	EIZENSTAT
	JORDAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRAFT
	LIPSHUTZ
	MOORE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POWELL
	WATSON
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WEXLER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BRZEZINSKI
	MCINTYRE
	SCHULTZE

	ARAGON
	BOURNE
	BUTLER
	H. CARTER
	CLOUGH
	COSTANZA
	CRUIKSHANK
	FALLOWS
	FIRST LADY
	GAMMILL
	HARDEN
	HUTCHESON
	JAGODA
	LINDER
	MITCHELL
	MOE
	PETERSON
	PETTIGREW
	PRESS
	RAFSHOON
	SCHNEIDERS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VOORDE
	WARREN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WISE

	ADAMS
	ANDRUS
	BELL
	BERGLAND
	BLUMENTHAL
	BROWN
	CALIFANO
	HARRIS
	KREPS
	MARSHALL
	SCHLESINGER
	STRAUSS
	VANCE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Jack Watson *Jack*

June 1, 1978

SUBJECT:

Attendance at the National Association
of Counties Conference in Atlanta,
July 8-12, 1978

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is holding its annual meeting in Atlanta from July 8 through 12. Approximately one half of the nation's 3,300 counties are members of NACo and will be represented at the Conference. They are expecting 4,000 to 5,000 delegates, plus family members.

For all the following reasons, I think you should seriously consider speaking at the Conference, preferably at the beginning:

- As you know, county officials comprise a potentially very strong grass roots political network. The Republican National Committee recognizes this and is supporting a Republican county officials organization within NACo. The Democrats are organizing a Democratic caucus and would benefit greatly from your presence to boost their organizational efforts.
- Generally speaking, NACo has been very supportive of your policies (e.g., welfare reform, hospital cost containment, etc.). There was a recent "blow up" about our not referring to counties in your March 27 urban policy speech, but that brouhaha has died down and NACo has made a point of reiterating their support of other Administration initiatives. They are also now working closely with us on the urban policy.

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- Since there is traditionally a flurry of Congressional activity before the July 4 weekend, this would give you a good opportunity in a major forum to review your overall legislative priorities, program and outlook.
- Since the principles of the national health program should be formulated by then, another option for a major speech would be for you to outline those principles to the county officials. As you know, county governments are directly involved in and concerned with health care delivery and the costs of hospital and other health care services.
- Since you have never been to a national NACo conference, your attendance would have enormous symbolic significance and political impact. County officials frequently feel that they are treated as "second-class citizens;" consequently, Presidential attention and presence at their national conference would pay us rich dividends.

On the negative side, Georgia has not passed the ERA, and you will be criticized by some groups for attending a meeting in the state. On the other hand, since you are already attending the Prayer Breakfast with the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta on June 16, it would be hard to use the ERA issue as a reason not to attend the NACo Conference.

The more serious negative is that you will be leaving for Europe on July 13 to attend the Economic Summit and will need as much time as possible during the preceding week to get ready for that meeting.

After reviewing all of the public interest group national meetings that are schedule for this summer (e.g., U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, National Conference of State Legislatures, etc.), I believe that NACo is unquestionably the most important one for you to attend, if it is at all possible for you to do so.

Explore Further _____

Will not attend _____