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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RICK HUTCHESON

FROM:

STU EIZENSTAT *Stu*

SUBJECT: Jack Watson's Memo Opposing my Recommendation
re Cabinet Status for Scotty Campbell as OPM
Director

Jack has given me a copy of his memo responding to my recommendation that the President should decide to treat the Director of the Office of Personnel Management as a member of the Cabinet, if the Director is Scotty Campbell.

My recommendation is not simply designed to "handle a tactical legislative problem by expanding the size of the Cabinet," as Jack contends. The problem -- assuring that OPM, and with it the entire Federal personnel system, is not placed by statute beyond the President's control, is a very serious one, and deciding to give the OPM Director Cabinet status will help avoid this threat. But my main point is that, on the merits, it makes sense to accord Cabinet member status to the OPM job, at this time. The OPM will be different from EPA, GSA, and the VA, the non-Cabinet agencies cited by Jack. The civil service reform bill contemplates that OPM will be an analogue of OMB in the personnel field, a right-arm for the President in managing the Federal personnel system, with responsibilities cutting across all the agencies of the government. Informal Cabinet-level designation will underscore the President's continuing commitment to getting a handle on personnel policy. Finally, I personally believe that it would be useful to have the exceptional ability Scotty has demonstrated available to the President on the broader basis that Cabinet membership implies.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR RICK HUTCHESON

FROM:

JACK WATSON *Jack*

SUBJECT:

Eizenstat Memorandum regarding
Cabinet Member Status for OPM
Director under the Civil Service
Reform Bill

I do not concur in the recommendation. The President has recently expressed concern over the number of people attending Cabinet meetings and has taken steps to reduce that number. To handle a tactical legislative problem by expanding the size of the Cabinet seems to me to be a wrong and unnecessary approach.

Similarly, although I, too, have extremely high regard for Scotty Campbell, I do not think that that constitutes a good reason for making the OPM job a Cabinet position. (What about Doug Costle and Max Cleland and Jay Solomon, all of whom head major departments of government and none of whom holds Cabinet rank?) Although Cabinet rank would, of course, enhance the prestige of the job (as it would any job), I do not think Scotty (or whoever is to be OPM Director) would need the Cabinet rank in order to "secure cooperation from the line agencies."

CC: Stu Eizenstat