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 By *D* NARA Date *4/10/88*

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

1973-11-29, Faisal, Nixon, Meeting About

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Nixon
 Congressman Robert H. Steele (R-Conn.)
 Congressman Louis Frey, Jr. (R-Fla.)
 William Timmons, Assistant to the President
 for Legislative Affairs
 Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
 to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, November 29, 1973
 12:05 p.m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

SUBJECT:

Congressional Trip to the Middle East

President: You two have been doing a lot of travelling.

Steele: Not as much as you. We travelled for the Foreign Affairs Committee. We went to five countries. We met with King Faisal, with Yamani (Oil Minister). We will have a report on the impact of the Middle East on our foreign policy and oil supply.

I was impressed with the determination of Yamani to make the embargo work. They are convinced we are not organized to deal with the embargo and we are not willing to make the steps needed to withstand the boycott. They think we will cave in and put the pressure on Israel to deal with the Arabs.

President: What do your constituents think?

Steele: You can't imagine the fear and concern in New England on energy. We provide 70 percent of our heat and electricity with oil. We have six percent of the population and use 21 percent of the heating and industrial oil. We are in bad trouble.

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President: The purpose of our program is to spread the problem on an equitable basis. Everyone has to take some of it. We have no intention to let New England suffer because it is more dependent on Middle East oil. I assure you I am keenly aware of the problem. New England will not be allowed to become a disaster area. The shortage will be distributed as equitably as possible.

Steele: They way the percentage cuts work, we are hit more than the South.

Watergate is hitting Connecticut hard, but energy is trying to push it out. It would be a coup if you would come to Connecticut to talk about energy.

President: I know what a burden Watergate is. We will be sending you materials on taxes, ITT, and milk, etc.

Frey: Your press conference was great. I take stuff out of the Post to show my colleagues.

President: There were 102 members of Congress. Everyone is behind it, but on a payoff basis. On a political basis I would be better off supporting the consumers. The whole Congressional staff said I had not choice.

I am aware of New England's problem, and it might be possible for me to get up there. You can tell your constituents you talked to me and no part of the country will be hurt. And I know New England has a specific problem.

Frey: I have three things. This is a target of opportunity. Taking the converters off cars. We are waiting for guidelines--we're suspending it anyway. And National Mobile House safety legislation. It is a tremendous picnic issue and there's a big gap here. There's a big problem of the handicapped here -- cooking, bathrooms, etc.

These are positive, people-oriented programs.

President: What do you suggest on mobile homes?

Frey: There never have been any standards--no warranties, no standardization. There is no code for regulation, because they are mobile.

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President: Your thought on the handicapped is a national conference?

Frey: Yes. My nephew is deaf. He could work on aircraft without earmuffs. The positive issues are good to get out public on.

President: We are in a great fight; it will continue into next year, maybe it will turn to Rodino.

Frey and Steele: I think it has turned.

President: On the tape issue. The problem of the silence on tapes. They are sound activated and a coffee cup will do it.

Steele: That is my point. It's changing. If you came to Connecticut on energy, you would not get that much on energy.

In any case, you should have these on an inspection trip.

President: He hasn't been there? Who comes up next year?

Steele: Ribicoff. The polls show he would beat me 46-31 percent.

President: This is always the case. It was with me. It narrows when the campaign starts.

Steele: If you could send Governor Love.