

*File
transit
activity*

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

17-Apr-1996 05:48pm

TO: Jennifer M. O'Connor

FROM: Peggy A. Clark
 Office of Presidential Personnel

SUBJECT: Charles Wang

Bob wanted me to let you know about the status of Charles Wang, who had been recommended to serve as Executive Director of the Commission on Civil Rights.

In order for Charles to serve, he had to be approved by a majority of the board. Last Friday they voted him down. Margaret Fung, Executive Director of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, who wrote the letter to Bob, which you enclosed, mounted a campaign against Charles. The vote to turn down the appointment was a split - R to D.

Now, we're back to square one to find a new executive director. Let me know if this is clear or if you need further info.

Peg

*Where is our
outgoing request
on this? (I think
Hegh has it)*

*As you
know we
was voted
down
(My understanding
is you
already know)*

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

17-Apr-1996 05:48pm

TO: Jennifer M. O'Connor

FROM: Peggy A. Clark
 Office of Presidential Personnel

SUBJECT: Charles Wang

Bob wanted me to let you know about the status of Charles Wang, who had been recommended to serve as Executive Director of the Commission on Civil Rights.

In order for Charles to serve, he had to be approved by a majority of the board. Last Friday they voted him down. Margaret Fung, Executive Director of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, who wrote the letter to Bob, which you enclosed, mounted a campaign against Charles. The vote to turn down the appointment was a split - R to D.

Now, we're back to square one to find a new executive director. Let me know if this is clear or if you need further info.

Peg

Do a note back
to "Larry" that ~~says~~
provides the above
info. Make sure,
from Peg, that it
isn't confidential

Kathy Whelan
6-6229

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1996

COPY

MEMORANDUM TO BOB NASH

FROM: Jennifer O'Connor
SUBJECT: Charles Wang Appointment

Harold received the attached earlier this week. Could you please let me know what stage this appointment is at, and what your thoughts are on the issue described in the letter. I can be contacted at 6-6350. Thanks.

put in
pending file
→ follow up w/
Nash's assistant
in a week

got an
e-mail
on
4/17

?

~~scribbled out~~

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION — DIVISION 726

40 YUKON AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314 · (718) 698-5088 · (718) 698-7700 · FAX (718) 983-6698

LAWRENCE J. HANLEY
President and Business AgentDAVID RANSOM
Vice PresidentVICTOR M. SUAREZ
Financial Secretary-TreasurerBOB BALLARD, JR.
Recording Secretary

Executive Committee

TOM MAZZOLA
VINCENT SFRAPIGLIA
RICHARD NARWICK

April 9, 1996

To Harold Ickes

From Larry Hanley

Re: Charles Wang appointment

Received the attached today
from Margaret Fung.I hope you are as concerned
as I am about this potential
conflict.

Best Regards!

Larry



ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND
99 HUDSON STREET, 17TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10013-2869 212-966-5937

March 20, 1996

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY FAX 202-456-2259

Mr. Bob J. Nash
Director, White House Office of Presidential Personnel
153 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Appointment of Charles Wang as Staff Director,
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Dear Mr. Nash:

It has just come to my attention that Charles Wang has been nominated to serve as staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. I am writing to alert you to a potentially difficult situation that could arise in the event that Wang is confirmed for this post without a full investigation of his recent activities and input from New York City's Asian American community leaders.

You may not be aware that 223 Chinese immigrant workers recently won a \$1.7 million settlement in a federal lawsuit against Wang's agency, the Chinese American Planning Council (CPC), and the City of New York. This six-year litigation was based on Wang's failure to pay prevailing wages to his employees working on a city housing rehab project. A related National Labor Relations Board ruling, dated September 30, 1991, specifically found that Wang had threatened workers for their organizing activities and unlawfully promised benefits to employees if they abandoned their support of the union. (A copy of this decision, affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on January 29, 1993, is enclosed.)

When the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held a hearing in New York City on September 19, 1994, Wang was the target of community protests and leafletting because of his discriminatory treatment of the CPC workers, and several negative articles appeared in the media. (A sample clipping from New York Newsday dated September 21, 1994 is enclosed.) Since that time, the CPC workers' legal victory in 1995 has received widespread publicity and support from the civil rights community and organized labor. Wang's appointment, which has moved quickly and quietly through the review process, would represent an unfortunate and embarrassing contradiction to the Clinton Administration's public stance in support of workers' rights and vigorous labor law enforcement.

Unfortunately, many Asian American community leaders in New York City are not aware that Wang's appointment as staff director to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is imminent. I hope that there will be an adequate opportunity for a full range of views to be heard on his nomination before his appointment is made final.

(Sincerely,

Margaret Fung
Executive Director

Enc.

AAIDEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS: HAYWOOD BURNS, EDUARDO R.C. CAMILONGO, NICHOLAS V. CHEN, NOLAND CHENG, VIVIAN CHENG-KUANHA, DENILEY Y. CHEW, IRA GLASSER, JACK GREENBERG, GRACE Y. HWANG, PETER D. IFFERER, CHANWOO LEE, DONALD H. LIU, JOANN LUM, TAY CHEW MATSUDA, ALEXANDER P. MOON, HARSHA MURTHY, CAO K. O., KAREN SAUVIGNET, MICHAEL SHEN, SUMANTRA THO.SINHA, ARTHUR J. SOONG, KO-YUNG TUNG, JOAN E. WASHINGTON, NAPOLEON B. WILLIAMS, JR., SUSAN CHONG WONG, GAIL J. WRIGHT-SIRMAN.

Kalen 6/29
File

Amalgamated Transit Union

5025 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016-4139
202-537-1645
FAX 202-244-7824

Office of the International President

June 13, 1996

The Honorable Federico F. Peña
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peña:

I write with a sense of urgency to request a meeting with you because of an emerging and serious conflict in Administration transportation funding policy which could permanently damage the federal mass transit program. I refer in particular to ongoing efforts in the United States Senate supported and, indeed, advocated by Amtrak to meet its funding needs by establishing a passenger rail trust fund for Amtrak with revenue from one-half cent of the federal gasoline tax that now goes to the mass transit account.

While we do not disagree with the important service provided by Amtrak and its need to secure additional revenues to meet its operating and capital expenses, we do not believe it should be accomplished in a fashion which will only produce dire consequences for the urban mass transit industry.

We take this position at a time when transit funding continues to be under sharp attack. It has only been through the strong efforts of this Administration that both transit capital and operating funding have been maintained at levels allowing the industry to meet its basic needs. By all accounts, however, if Amtrak's proposal is enacted it will not only seriously, if not permanently, jeopardize the ongoing "new starts" program, but undermine the rail modernization and capital bus program as well. This, in turn, would set the stage for a continuing erosion of transit support as we move forward to reauthorize the ISTEA program next year. Estimates prepared by the Federal Transit Administration clearly document this outcome.

Rather than pursue funding sources among competing modes, we believe the Administration should support efforts under way by Senator Byrd and others to restore the 4.3-cent gasoline tax to the transportation trust funds, with an equitable set-aside for highway, Amtrak and transit.

According to FTA, the 25 percent reduction in revenue for the mass transit account amounts to approximately \$700 million per year. Clearly, general fund support is not available now nor likely in the future to replace this lost funding.



Secretary Peña

Page 2

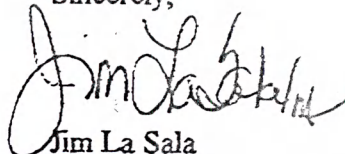
June 13, 1996

Already, because of Congressionally approved budget limitations, 56 percent of transit agencies, on average, raised fares 26 percent. Forty-eight percent of all transit agencies have reduced services by 12 percent on average. Further, over 36 percent have delayed capital investments, with \$1.5 billion currently being deferred.

I believe it is necessary that the affected parties discuss these issues to explore the impact alternative funding options pose for the various transportation modes. We would very much like an opportunity to meet with you and your staff at the earliest possible date and no later than June 21, if possible, to discuss alternative strategies in this area.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter.

Sincerely,



Jim La Sala
International President

aa

cc Mortimer Downey, DOT
Gordon Linton, FTA
John Sweeney, AFL-CIO
Ron Carey, TTD, AFL-CIO
Harold Ickes, Office of the President

6/13 give
to Jen OC



Amalgamated Transit Union

5025 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20016-4139
(202) 537-1645 ♦ Fax (202) 244-7824

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

TO: Harold Ickes
Assistant to the President

FAX NUMBER: 456-2883

FROM: Jim La Sala
International President
Amalgamated Transit Union

DATE: June 13, 1996

SUBJECT: Transit Funding

*get a
briefing on
this from
Cabinet Aff.
ASAP*

Number of pages (including this cover sheet): 3

IN THE EVENT OF AN INCOMPLETE TRANSMISSION OR POOR COPY,
PLEASE CONTACT THE SENDER IMMEDIATELY AT (202) 537-1645.