

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
1.	MEMOS.	FR: EUGENE S. COWEN TO: BRYCE HARLOW. / RE: RICHARD BLUMENTHAL & VISTA. 2 2 pp.	3-19-70	D.

FILE GROUP TITLE

WHCF: Subj. File.

BOX NUMBER

5.

FOLDER TITLE

EX FG 6-7-3 VISTA

RESTRICTION CODES

- A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.
B. National security classified information.
C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.
D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.

- E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.
F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.
G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.
H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

WE 9
76 999
76 6-7-3
76 23-6-1
76 11-6

April 22, 1969

TO: John Ehrlichman

The attached material relates to the youth service programs. At Tab A is a memo from Bud Wilkinson which comments upon youth and certain youth programs. At Tab B is a later memo from Bud setting forth four specific recommendations:

- (a) Combined budgets of VISTA and Teachers Corps should equal budget of the Peace Corps.
- (b) VISTA should be detached from OEO. Teacher Corps should be detached from Office of Education. These two organizations should be reassigned to new agency tentatively called the "American Service Agency".
X
- (c) A new arm of the American Service Agency tentatively titled "Scholastic Action Program" should be created. This would basically be a youth volunteer program.
- (d) This Scholastic Action Program would be organized under the direction of Secretary Romney.

Comments on both of Bud's memoranda were solicited from Bryce Harlow, Dr. Burns and Pat Moynihan. Only Dr. Moynihan responded (Tab C).

In Pat's memo he questions the value of lumping three major domestic voluntary programs into a single new agency. "We risk creating an Orwellian 'Ministry of Altruism'." He recommends that Bud's office form a coordinating committee from the domestic departments that would emphasize student programs. Pat further questions whether "youth service" means service to or service by youth.

Dr. Moynihan does recommend that the Administration visibly support constructive student service programs but doubts that any action by the government could persuade any students to serve their country as long as the war lasts.

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APR 22 1969
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0 Jan 1/84
November 24, 1969

(3)
EXECUTIVE

76-6-7-3

MEMORANDUM TO PADRAIC^X KENNEDY
VISTA
Room 324
1200 - 19th St., N.W.

FROM: Peter M. Flanigan

On Friday I talked with Don^X Kendall, President and Chief Executive Officer of^X Pepsi Cola. He tells me that^X Accion, of which he was the former Chairman is sufficiently well managed. However, he would be pleased to meet with both you and John^X Paul regarding your own careers. In addition to his Pepsi Cola position, Kendall is the Chairman of the National Alliance of Businessmen and the Chairman of ECAT (Emergency Committee for American Trade).

✓
If you and/or John think well of this I suggest you write him a letter enclosing a memorandum, reminding him that this is a result of this conversation with me.

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Padraic - 7 -

MEMORANDUM TO ~~Pat~~ Kennedy

date - 11/24

(address) ?

VISTA
Washington, D.C.

President and

On Friday I talked with Don Kendall, ~~present~~ Chief
Executive Officer of Pepsi Cola. He tells me that ~~Axon~~ ^{ACCION, of which he was} former
Chairman, ^{managed.} is sufficiently well. However, he ^{would be pleased to meet} ~~???~~ ^{???}
~~that~~ ^{Paul} both you and John ~~Paul~~ regarding your own careers. In addition
????????? to his Pepsi Cola position, Kendall is the
Chairman of the National Alliance of Business -
~~businessman and~~ ^{men and} the Chairman of ECAT (Emergency
Committee for American Trade).
(rest not discernible)

If you and/or John think well of
this I suggest you write him a letter
enclosing a memorandum, reminding
him that this is a result of this
conversation with me.

BB

10

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FOR THE FILE

DATE

1/13/70

EXECUTIVE

FG6-7-3

FG6-7

FG6-11-1/Blumenthal

FG6-11-1/Danigan

FG6-11-1/Krogh

FG6-11-1/Larmont

FG6-11-1/Price, R.

FG6-11-1/Morgan Ed.

FG6-11-1/Hemping

FG6-11-1/Lent, R.

FG6-11-1/Monahan

LETTER, MEMO, ETC.

TO:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

Supp. Secy.
Dir. Danigan
Director of VISTA

5F

CORRESPONDENCE FILED CENTRAL FILES - CONFIDENTIAL FILE

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE

FG 11-6

FG 6-7-3

FG 6-11-1/Harlow, Bryce

March 26, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HARLOW

FROM: LAMAR ALEXANDER
SUBJECT: Your 3:00 p.m. meeting

You are meeting with John Ehrlichman and Bill Timmons because of the attached directive from the President ordering you to go to work quietly to begin an effort to phase out the Peace Corps and Vista. The best place to begin this effort, says the President, is to get the appropriations cut.

COMMENT

1. Peace Corps -- Peace Corps appropriations are handled as part of the Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill. That would be the Passman Appropriations Subcommittee (Shriver, Conte, Reid and Riegle are the Republican members) and the McGee Appropriation Subcommittee (with Fong, Cotton and Pearson the Republican members). Normally the House cuts several million dollars from the proposed Peace Corps appropriations and the Senate adds some back to it. In general, the full committee looks with more favor than disfavor upon the program today. Because more young people are interested today in solving problems in America rather than abroad, and because the Peace Corps is not working out as well in foreign countries as it once did, there may be some room here to get a cutback in appropriations.
2. Vista -- Vista is popular among liberals today because of the increased interest among young people for opportunities for public service in this country. The Vista budget is part of the total general appropriations for the OEO bill. The Administration estimates to the Congress what it will spend on Vista from the total OEO appropriations, so that the Director therefor has some latitude. He probably would not be able to cut the Vista budget more than 25 or 30% without incurring heavy congressional reaction, however. The House Appropriations Subcommittee is chaired by Dan Flood (Michel, Shriver and Reid are the Republicans). The Senate subcommittee is chaired by Magnuson (Cotton, Case, Fong and Boggs are the Republicans). Because of the composition of these subcommittees and because of the liberal composition of the authorized committees a cut back in Vista appropriations would probably be more difficult to achieve than a cut back in Peace Corps appropriations.

3/31/70 (4)

EXECUTIVE

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elw
F. Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers have generally received, as a matter of local board practices, occupational deferments during their tour of service. The Peace Corps favors the discontinuation of all except hardship deferments. However, it believes that if occupational deferments are phased out prior to the phase out of undergraduate student deferments, and no postponement of induction is provided for Peace Corps volunteers, the Peace Corps will be unable to meet its contractual commitments to 61 foreign countries. Of the 6,100 trainees scheduled for this Summer and Fall, approximately 3,900 are expected to be graduating seniors and an additional 600 will be women married to these graduates. Thus, 4,500 of the 6,100 volunteers for this Summer and Fall will be highly influenced by decisions made with respect to the Peace Corps and the draft.

The Peace Corps has requested that a postponement of induction (not a deferment) be granted to all volunteers drafted while in the Peace Corps. Such a postponement would mean that drafted volunteers would not have their tour of service interrupted but would be certain to serve in the military at the end of their tour so long as a draft remained. Without this type of postponement, your Director of the Peace Corps, Joseph Blatchford, believes his recruiting methods will be "disasterously" affected.

Some members of your staff, as well as your new Director of Selective Service, Curtis W. Tarr, oppose a continuing policy of induction postponement for Peace Corps volunteers on equitable grounds. They believe that such a policy would induce affluent college graduates unsympathetic to military service and the war in Vietnam to enlist in the Peace Corps in the hope of postponement exposure to hostilities. They believe that a vital part of your draft reform program is to eliminate the channelling of young men into any particular type of activity except military service. Recognizing, however, the transitional difficulties that the new draft policies will pose for Peace Corps recruitment, your Selective Service Director would be willing to grant a postponement of induction until the end of their tour for those volunteers entering the Peace Corps this Summer and Fall. He would not support, however, the Peace Corps proposal that such a practice be continued until the entire phase out of undergraduate college deferments are complete 4 or 5 years from now.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That you select one of the options set forth below:

1. Ask the Director of Selective Service to grant a postponement of induction for Peace Corps volunteers drafted during their tour of service. Continue this policy until the phase out of undergraduate student deferments is complete. (Recommended by the Department of State and the Peace Corps.)

MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE

(2)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 1, 1970

FG6-7-3

FG6-11-1/Blumenthal, Richard

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

SUBJECT: Request for a final resolution of the proposed
Presidential appointment of Richard
Blumenthal as Director of VISTA,
+ Level IV

In mid-January I suggested this appointment contingent on a finding that the Senate would approve the nomination without major controversy. Bryce Harlow, Peter Flanigan and I have had extended discussions on this appointment. Numerous contacts have been made with members of the Senate confirmation committee. Of the Senators contacted, some have reservations, but no Senator indicated that he would oppose the nomination. However, in Bryce's judgment the mood of the Senate is such with respect to Administration nominees that any "opportunity" will be taken to contest a nominee. It is thought that the question of Mr. Blumenthal's lack of military service affords such an opportunity.

Mr. Blumenthal, 24, has always been deferred, either as a student, or most recently as a member of the White House Staff. I have examined many options which might resolve this problem. In my judgment the three options that might be usefully considered are listed below:

I. Mr. Blumenthal could enlist in the Marine Corps Reserve and begin immediately the minimum four month active duty requirement. With the cooperation of the Marine Corps, Mr. Blumenthal would be available to assume responsibility as Director of VISTA in early August.

Nothing else sent to
Central Files as of 5/6/70
fjc

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Arguments in favor.

1. At the time he assumes the Directorship of VISTA, he would have clearly met the most difficult portion of his military obligation. He would, of course, carry out his weekend and summer camp obligations for the remainder of the full six year period.
2. As an active reservist, his fitness to direct a program whose participants will not receive special treatment in connection with the draft cannot be faulted.

Arguments against.

1. An alternative to Mr. Blumenthal could not be found, cleared, nominated and confirmed within the next four months. Nevertheless, a delay of four months while Mr. Blumenthal completes his active duty would mean that a high level Administration position would be vacant for a total of nineteen months from the time the Administration took office.
 2. Mr. Blumenthal has been reported in the press as the principal candidate for this post. His departure for the Marine Corps duty might result in erroneous speculation that an able young man had been blocked by the Administration.
- II. Mr. Blumenthal could enlist in the Marine Corps Reserve, but have the commencement of his active duty postponed by as much as a year. Department of Defense regulations require as a general rule that enlistees begin their active duty within six months after their enlistment. However, where special circumstances arise, the commencement of activity may be postponed for as much as a year.

Arguments in favor.

1. The eventual fulfillment of Mr. Blumenthal's

military obligation would be assured.

2. Mr. Blumenthal's immediate nomination would eliminate the potential for criticism over the extended vacancy in the post. It would also provide VISTA with a Director whose personal leadership would be useful in tightening and redirecting the program.

Arguments against.

1. Such a procedure would provide an opportunity for critics to ask why the Administration would nominate a person who could only be on the job for from six months to one year before having to leave for a substantial period of time.

2. Any postponement of Mr. Blumenthal's period of active duty beyond the normal six month limitation might provide an opportunity for critics to charge that the Administration had stretched the reserve regulations to the limit for his benefit.

III. Mr. Blumenthal could request that his Selective Service Board extend his present occupational deferment originally obtained for his work on the White House Staff, and broadly construe it as applying to the VISTA position. The local board would probably take such action on the ground that the VISTA position located in the Executive Office of the President is substantially similar in nature to his present position. However, it is unlikely that his local Selective Service Board could receive and act upon such a request for an extension prior to the scheduled release of your military manpower message.

Arguments in favor.

1. As an extension of a present occupational deferment, it would not be inconsistent with an announced decision to terminate prospective occupational deferments.

2. Mr. Blumenthal would occupy the same status as many young men and women presently involved in the program he would direct.

Arguments against.

1. Such a procedure would provide an opportunity for critics to charge that just like many young people now in VISTA, Mr. Blumenthal will never fulfill his military obligation.

2. While holding an occupational deferment, he would have to represent an Administration which denied occupational deferments for service in the program he directs. In addition, he would have to supervise a change in practice of an organization which has long actively sought occupational deferments for its participants.

There has already been a long delay in appointing a Director for VISTA. Suitable candidates for this position have proven difficult to find. Mr. Blumenthal must shortly make important personal decisions in connection with military service. He is scheduled to be sworn into the Marine Corps Reserve at noon on Thursday. A failure to complete this process will seal off an important option. Therefore, this matter must be resolved before that time.

In my judgment if any one of the above three alternatives is adopted, Mr. Blumenthal will be confirmed. I have great confidence in Mr. Blumenthal's ability. In addition, his age and unique ability make his appointment to this position an important statement to any who need a reminder that there is much on which they can agree with and support in this Administration.

Attachment: Memorandum of January 9, 1970, including
Biographical Sketch of Richard Blumenthal

cc: Bryce Harlow
Peter Flanigan
John Ehrlichman
Ken Cole ✓

January 9, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Appointment of Richard Blumenthal
as Director of VISTA, Level IV.

The uniqueness of recommending the appointment of a 23 year-old to a Level IV position requires some discussion.

1. From my personal observation, Richard Blumenthal is one of the most thoughtful, intelligent, and best balanced young men I have met. Pat Moynihan, Len Garment, Ray Price, and Bud Krogh have worked with him during the past year in his duties as a member of the White House staff and share my high opinion of him.
2. I recommend that his pay not be \$38,000, as is normally the case for a Level IV, but that the authority of the President to pay up to that amount be exercised by setting the salary at \$15,000 a year. This would be several thousand dollars above his current White House pay, but \$23,000 less than the normal pay for a Level IV. This should avoid any criticism from the pay standpoint.
3. Prior to making an announcement, if it is decided to move ahead, I would personally speak with most of the members of the Senate Confirmation Committee and the Republican Leadership in the Senate to make them aware of it, and to make sure that there would be a response ranging from agreement to enthusiasm from a maximum number. I would not want either from Dick Blumenthal's or the Administration's standpoint to have the nomination result in a major flap on the Hill or possible refusal by the Senate to confirm.

4. I am satisfied that Mr. Blumenthal can perform the duties of the office. I see a variety of advantages to the Administration and to the Republican Party by taking a bold step such as this. I recognize the possible dangers and suggest that we should not go ahead unless you personally feel that it is a sufficiently intriguing idea and that you could be enthusiastic about it. It may be that you will want to visit with Mr. Blumenthal personally.

I will look forward to discussing this with you in person.

Attachment: Biographical Sketch of Richard Blumenthal

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

Personal Data

Born, February 13, 1946, New York City
Unmarried

Education

Harvard College
A.B. Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Fiske Scholar
Trinity College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England

Work Experience

January 1969 to present - Staff Assistant to the President
on the staff of Daniel P. Moynihan.

September 1968 to January 1969 - High School English Teacher,
Urban Teacher Corps, Ballou High School, Washington, D.C.

March 1968 to January 1969 - Assistant to the President, The
Washington Post Company.

December 1967 to February 1968 - London Correspondent, News-
week Magazine.

1966, 1967 - Intern Summer Reporter, General Assignment, The
Washington Post.

1965 - 1966 - Editorial Chairman, The Harvard Crimson.

References

Katharine Graham, President, The Washington Post Company
Edward C. Banfield, Professor, Harvard University
Richard E. Neustadt, Director, Kennedy Institute of Government,
Harvard University
Daniel P. Moynihan, Counselor to the President

January, 1970

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT

DOCUMENT CONTROL RECORD

ITEM REMOVED FROM THIS FILE FOLDER

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Galt
EXECUTIVE ①

76-11-1/Blumenthal, Richard
76-6-7-3

April 3, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

DWIGHT CHAPIN

Dick Blumenthal plans to enter the Marine Corps for a four-month tour of duty Friday, April 10. His last day here at the White House will be Thursday, April 9. It is hoped that when Dick returns, he will be nominated by the President to head VISTA.

This is to recommend that the President meet briefly with Dick prior to his leaving for the Marines. Dick has done exceptionally good work during his almost year-and-a-half here, both on the District of Columbia, the President's State of the Union Message, and other projects. If should only take five minutes of the President's time to shake Dick's hand, tell him he's done a great job, wish him well in the service and indicate that he'd like him to return.

KEN COLE

cc: Pat Moynihan
Don Rumsfeld
John Ehrlichman
Bryce Harlow
Bob Haldeman
Bud Krogh

ns/owr
4 +

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1970

EXECUTIVE

FG6-7-3

FG6-7

WE10

PR9

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld:

I know that as you search for qualified men and women to serve as Volunteers In Service To America, you will convey to them the need for their efforts, especially in the area of health. This country is facing a massive crisis in the delivery of health services. The work of capable and interested people through VISTA can do much to help poor Americans find needed health care.

Sincerely,



Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Director, Office of Economic
Opportunity
Washington, D. C. 20506

orig. handed to Lee Goodell, Mr. Rumsfeld's secy: 4/9/70

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 9, 1970

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld:

I know that as you search for qualified men and women to serve as Volunteers In Service To America, you will convey to them the need for their efforts, especially in the area of health. This country is facing a massive crisis in the delivery of health services. The work of capable and interested people through VISTA can do much to help poor Americans find needed health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Nixon", with a stylized, flowing script.

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Director, Office of Economic
Opportunity
Washington, D. C. 20506

Hopkins

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

OEO is now in the process of creating new material for use in recruiting health professionals for VISTA. For poster use they would like to have a short Presidential quote which more clearly focuses on the health care delivery problem.

✓ Don Rumsfeld has requested that you send him the attached letter (Tab A) which encourages qualified young men and women to serve in VISTA especially in the area of health. Their participation is especially needed because of the massive crisis the country is facing in the delivery of health services.

Issuance of this letter and the statement regarding the health services situation would be consistent with the statement issued by you last year during the appointment of Dr. Egeberg.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Director Rumsfeld at Tab A.


JOHN P. EHRLICHMAN

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 30, 1970

FOR: Ken Cole

FROM: Donald R. Murdoch 

SUBJECT: Presidential Quote for VISTA Recruiting Poster

In connection with the appointment of Dr. Egeberg, the President stated "This country is facing a massive health crisis." Thereafter, Finch and Egeberg developed the point further, noting that the crisis exists in the area of delivering health services.

OEO is now in the process of creating new material for use in recruiting health professionals for VISTA. For poster use, we would like to have a short Presidential quote which more clearly focuses on the delivery problem, such as, "This country is facing a massive crisis in the delivery of health services." OEO would like to have this quote put on record. I don't believe it poses any substantive problem and it might be accomplished by having the President send Don the attached letter.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1970

2

FLG

EXECUTIVE

FG6-1-3

WE10-3

FOR: Herb Klein
Ron Ziegler ✓
Gerry Warren
Ed Morgan

FROM: Don Murdoch DM

SUBJECT: Conference of the National VISTA Alliance,
Monday, July 27 - Wednesday, July 29
George Washington University

I thought you should be aware of this Conference and what might be generated in the press as a result of it. It is a group of an estimated 300 VISTA Volunteers (out of 4800 total VISTA volunteers), who are convening to discuss their concerns about the VISTA program. This is not an OEO authorized or endorsed Conference, and has not been, and will not be, supported at government expense. Judging from what we have been able to find out about the agenda, and pick up about participants, it is likely to be a rather hostile gathering and might well take on a decidedly anti-Administration flavor.

I thought you should have the agenda, and Mr. Rumsfeld's response to an invitation to address the Conference.

Though the agenda notes some potentially news worthy speakers, our information indicates some possible no-shows. In any event, I will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

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AGENDA

NATIONAL VISTA ALLIANCE

Monday, July 27 - Wednesday, July 29

George Washington University

Monday, July 27

9:00 am	Registration
9:30 am	Organization meeting
10:30 am	William Kirscher (AFL-CIO representative of Caesar Chavez)
11:00 am	Keynote Address: Leon Panetta
11:00 am	VISTA supervisors caucas
1:30 pm	Assembly to be divided in regional caucas to discuss national platform
4:00 pm	Voting on the national platform
evening meeting	Establishment of a permanent structure for the Conference

Tuesday, July 28

8:30 am	Briefings on lobbying, followed by visitation to Congressional offices
5:00 pm	Press Conference, New Senate Office Building, G- 308
7:30 pm	Assembly -- Establishment of national structure for the National VISTA Alliance
9:30 pm	Party: Grace Episcopal Church

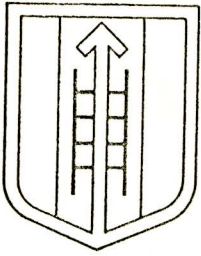
Wednesday, July 29

10:00 am Address (not confirmed): C. R. Lane,
Acting Director of VISTA.

Lane has not been contacted by the Alliance,
though they have listed him as appearing.

10:45 am Speech: R. Sargeant Shriver, Former:
Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity,
Director of the Peace Corps, Ambassador to
France

1:00 pm Assembly Address: Dr. George Wyllie,
National Director of the Welfare Rights
Organization



July 24, 1970

NOTE TO EDITORS:

This letter from Donald Rumsfeld, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, was hand delivered to Miss Carol Craig, a coordinator of the National Vista Alliance, on Friday, July 24, 1970. The letter was in response to Miss Craig's letter inviting Mr. Rumsfeld to address the Alliance.

Attachment

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

24 JUL 1970

Miss Carol Craig
815 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Craig:

I have received your invitation but, as you know, I am scheduled to be out of the city.

I understand that your conference has been called in part to facilitate the discussion of issues relating to VISTA policies. Questions have been raised concerning the Agency's policies on such topics as draft deferments, community organization, and training and recruitment. I have discussed these matters with a number of VISTA volunteers, both on visits to projects and in meetings in Washington. However, I want to take this additional opportunity to spell out VISTA policies. Hopefully, this will enable discussions to focus on those issues about which real questions may exist.

As I pointed out in a statement in the current VISTA magazine, you are actively engaged in one of the most important programs by which America is helping the poor through action rather than rhetoric. I share the enthusiasm and dedication of those who are serving their fellow citizens in VISTA. One indication of this Administration's support for VISTA is the FY 1971 budget request, which is 10% more than last year.

This Administration has reordered national priorities substantially. For the first time since 1950, the portion of the 1971 federal budget allocated for human resources exceeds that devoted to national security -- 41% for human resources as opposed to 37% for national security. This compares to allocations in 1962 of 29% for human resources and 48% for defense, and in 1968 for 32% for domestic concerns and 45% for defense. The fiscal year 1971 budget reflects a cut of roughly \$6 billion in military and space expenditures.

The degree of American involvement in the Vietnam war has been significantly reduced. To date some 133,000 troops have been withdrawn and at least another 150,000 will be home by next June. The troop level today is the lowest since February of 1967.

This Administration's desire to achieve greater opportunities for all Americans is shown by the proposed Family Assistance Plan, food and hunger legislation, the President's recent policy announcement on American Indians, the tax reform legislation eliminating taxes for 9 million poor Americans, and the President's draft reform proposal, to mention but a few examples.

As you are aware, I do not favor occupational deferments for individuals working in OEO-funded programs, including VISTA volunteers. For every individual receiving a deferment, someone else must serve, and the poor are forced to bear a heavier burden. Shifting that burden to those individuals we are trying to assist is inconsistent with the goals of the Office of Economic Opportunity. The policy now in force recognizes the fact that some volunteers already had appeals in process at the time the policy was announced on April 21, and will not penalize them.

Some have alleged that VISTA is seeking to eliminate community organization. This is untrue. Community organization can be effective in dealing with the problems of the poor. But it is an approach, not an end in itself. In my judgement, most projects should have a specific programmatic focus, determined by the community groups sponsoring the projects. For the most part, volunteer efforts will be devoted to working on problems such as health, drugs, alcoholism, education and manpower, economic development, family planning, housing, community planning and general community services.

In many instances, community organization is a useful technique by which the volunteer brings people together to help themselves. But the structure of the project will be developed by the community sponsoring the project, and approved by the regional office. Only such a procedure can help to insure that VISTA's primary goal of alleviating poverty will be achieved.

Recruiting and training efforts will be governed by the needs of the community designed projects. Every effort will be made to select and train those individuals best qualified to make a contribution as a volunteer to the projects proposed from the field. To the extent that approved projects require specific skills, efforts will be made to meet those needs. This does not mean that only specialists will be recruited, rather that volunteers will be selected and trained to meet the specific needs of the respective community programs, to be of maximum value to the projects and provide a worthwhile experience for the volunteer.

Some concerns have been voiced about the make-up of the volunteer corps. The following table indicates the changes in the profile of volunteers during the past 18 months.

-3-

<u>Age</u>	<u>January 1969</u>	<u>June 1970</u>
18-19	6%	2%
20-24	58%	62%
25-49	26%	28%
over 50	10%	8%
Community Volunteers	8%	20%
Specially Skilled	10%	22%
College Graduates	25%	57%

The National VISTA Alliance is not an OEO sponsored or supported organization. Consequently, OEO regulations regarding non-official activities apply. Regional Offices will handle questions concerning leave and other matters pertaining to your conference in a fair and uniform manner and in accordance with existing regulations and procedures.

Senior Headquarters Staff members from the Office of Economic Opportunity are prepared to respond to questions on the policies of the Agency, and OEO-VISTA will welcome constructive recommendations for improvements in the program.

I hope that your conference will be as constructive as has been so much of the work of Volunteers on behalf of the poor.

Sincerely,

Donald Rumsfeld

Donald Rumsfeld
Director

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

(3)

August 7, 1970

EXECUTIVE

HO/A*

IN

486-7-3

486-7

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Dwight Chapin

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

SUBJECT: Your Memo of July 29 Concerning ^{*}American Indian Day

I would withhold a decision on involvement with VISTA in the proposed observance of September 25 American Indian Day for the present.

I do think the idea of touring some reservations in Arizona and New Mexico is an excellent one and would be happy to offer whatever assistance is necessary to set up such a project.

The Office of Economic Opportunity has a number of outstanding Indian programs on reservations in that area which I think would be suitable for the type of visit you have suggested.

Handwritten notes:
Rumsfeld is that VP should
ask to American & PW to
May/June Americans. maybe
you should rec. a
form for the VP
[Signature]

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AUG 12 1970
CENTRAL FILES

The Western White House

San Clemente

August 28, 1970

EXECUTIVE

FG 6-7-3

ND 8 / B*

Dear Dick:

Your very thoughtful letter of August 13 has just reached my desk and I want to thank you for it. The excellent work you did during your sixteen months at the White House has earned you the admiration of all of your colleagues on my staff. Your efforts were thorough and energetic and contributed a great deal to the objectives of my Administration.

As I mentioned to you personally, I am deeply grateful for your enthusiastic and loyal service. You have my warm good wishes for the days ahead.

Sincerely,

RN]

Private First Class Richard Blumenthal
2595207
Headquarters Company H & S BN S-1
MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina 29905

RNEJC:TO'H:blm

(Per WSH)

RECEIVED
SEP 2 1970
CENTRAL FILES

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Noble:

Please check this letter for the
President's signature to Dick
Blumenthal. Should it go on azure
stationery?

John Campbell

*where's the
original
letter?
- Campbell has -*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

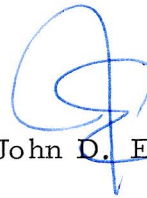
INFORMATION

Letter from former staff
member, Richard Blumenthal

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Dick Blumenthal has written to you expressing his concern relative to recent press stories about his possible appointment as head of the VISTA program.

His comments are very thoughtful and you may wish to read them (Tab A). Don Rumsfeld prepared a reply for your signature (Tab B).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John D. Ehrlichman', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

John D. Ehrlichman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: *JCS*

TO:

Central Files

FROM: John Campbell

For your information.

Comments:

Parris Island, S.C.

August 13, 1970

H
Dear Mr. President,

I have been deeply troubled by the outcome of my discussions with Donald Rumsfeld about the possibility of my nomination to the position of Director of VISTA. Since my departure from the White House staff to enlist in the Marine Corps in early April, I have been isolated from the outside world during a rigorous training program at Parris Island. As a result of this and a combination of other circumstances, there were several press reports of the discussions concerning VISTA during early July.

I am sincerely sorry for any embarrassment these reports may have caused to you or to the Administration, or harm which may have been done to the VISTA program. I would have preferred never to have been considered as VISTA director than to have been involved in a situation embarrassing to you or others in the Administration whose trust and confidence I value so highly. The events of these weeks have caused me more sadness and anxiety than any others that I can remember in my life.

During my sixteen months on the White House staff, I learned the importance of discrete and loyal staff work-- in an Administration which has encouraged critical self-judgement and new ideas-- and the immense damage that may be done by hasty or self-serving recourse to the press. I was treated fairly and generously by all members of the White House staff with whom I served, especially by Donald Rumsfeld and Daniel P. Moynihan.

My work was exciting and rewarding beyond all expectation, and I am especially grateful for your personal kindness throughout this period, and your very encouraging words during our last meeting.

Sincerely yours,



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Dick:

I sincerely appreciate receiving your letter and the thoughtfulness that prompted it.

As I have said to you personally, the excellence of your work on the White House Staff was known and appreciated by those with whom you worked closely, as well as by myself. ~~Reports in the press do not lessen our thanks to you for your work.~~

I know ~~Mr. Rumsfeld and Dr. Moynihan~~ join me in ~~extending~~ best wishes to you for a rewarding future.

Sincerely,

Pfc Richard Blumenthal
2595207
Headquarters Company H&S BN S-1
MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina 29905

RUMSFELD
DRAFT

EXECUTIVE

FG6-7-3

FG6-7

PR5

October 7, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DON RUMSFELD

FROM: PETER M. FLANIGAN

You might be interested to know that the head of the New London, Connecticut, VISTA Office has on his wall a picture, not of the President of the United States, but of Che Guevara. This gives you a rough idea of where that particular employee's sentiments lie. I won't give this information to Jack Anderson, but someone else might unless you remove either the picture or the employee, or preferably both.

RECORDED
OCT 8 1970
FBI - NEW YORK

OCTOBER 26, 1970

FOR BUD KROGH
ED HARPER
ED MORGAN
DON RUMSFELD

Scammon and Wattenberg hold the thesis that Sidney Hook has recently announced that not everyone belongs in college. This is the antithesis of the John Lindsay school of thought that the publicly owned colleges should have an "open admissions" policy.

If we assume the validity of the former view, if everyone doesn't belong in college, then where do they belong?

Why should people have to go to college for four years to become nurses or forest rangers or policemen or utilities managers, etc?

Is there room to recast VISTA into a four-year, tuition paid learn-while-doing course which would have some affiliation with the vocational and technical schools or junior colleges in the country?

Might this be the basis for the merger of the teacher corps, Vista and the Peace Corps with certain students learning while doing overseas while others learn while doing here either in schools or in other public or semi-public occupations?

Could this somehow be tied to our manpower program so that we were sure there was a job waiting for these people on completion of their enlistment?

I'd be very interested in your views on this.

John D. Ehrlichman