

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 8, 1970

SUBJECT: House-Senate Highway Bill Conference, Record of telephone conversation between Bill Blunt of the Commerce Department, Bud Krogh and Charles Clapp.

Blunt said that he had talked this morning with Enfield, the minority staff member for the House Committee on Public Works. Enfield told him three main things:

- 1) He understands that the Administration is strongly opposed to the Growth Center aspect of the highway bill. The House conferees, however, have irrevocably decided to support the provision. They contemplate no difficulty with the Senate on this particular issue.
- 2) The only possible change would be that they might turn the Demonstration Program into a supplemental grant, with the idea of getting more money into it.
- 3) They expect to wrap up the conference today.

Enfield said that they were anxious to get a demonstration program going in highways now, so that in 1972 when they are considering a 150 year program they will have some experience on which to base a decision. He doubts that they would consider any substantive amendments, but some conforming ones might be possible. Blunt said he understood that the highway people at DOT have opposed the Growth Center provision vigorously, but were making no headway with the conferees at all. In the report they are contemplating a provision which would require that the Secretary of the Department of Transportation consult the Secretary of Commerce before determining the location of the growth centers.

The White House has committed itself in a letter to give some idea about development plans in February and Blunt used this in an effort to delay mention of the growth centers in the conference bill. Enfield said it was too late to even discuss that. The growth center provision would be in the bill as it came out of conference.