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January 25, 1960

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE CIVIL DEFENSE
COMMITTEE OF THE STATE GOVERNORS
Monday, January 25, 1960 - 9:25 a.m.

Attendees: Gov. J. Calvin McGee, Chairman, Governors Conference
Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller
Gov. Edmund G. Brown, California
Gov. George D. Clyde, Utah
Gov. Ernest F. Hollings, South Carolina
Gov. G. Mennen Williams, Michigan

Sec. Hester, State
Mr. Allan Dallas, CIA
Deputy Secretary Douglas, Defense
Mr. Florence, Asst. Secretary of Defense
General Twining, JCS
Mr. John McCone, AEC
Gov. Joseph, OGD
Under Secretary Morse, Agriculture

Mr. Harvard Cribfield, Secretary of the Governors' Conf.
Mr. Hubert R. Gallagher, OGD
Mr. Dean Snyder, HEW

Mr. Oscar Kuehhauser)
Mr. Alvin P. Hammel) Gov. Rockefeller's Staff
Gen. C. V. R. Schayler)
Mr. Keith S. McHugh)

Mr. Harold G. Robinson, Director, Calif. Disaster Office
Mr. Ralph M. Sheehan, Civil Def. Director, Michigan
Mr. S. H. Wehner, Executive Sec. for Gov. Williams
Mr. Gov. Swenson, Michigan

Gov. Ferguson
Mr. Merriman
Mr. Hagerty
Mr. Price
Mr. Minnich

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The President greeted the crowd with a friendly, smiling banter and chatting informally and briefly.

Speaking to a crowd of 100,000, the President stated that he would request the Government to do everything possible to help the people who are in this difficult position. He said that the Government would do everything possible to help the people who are in this difficult position.

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the problem and be prepared against fallout. (3) initiation of surveys within the States as to the adequacy of their existing arrangements and requirements for the future, and (4) initiation of efforts to establish protected seats of State government against an emergency.

Gov. Rockefeller outlined the purpose of this meeting as that of moving ahead with implementation of these resolutions. He hoped that through a joint statement to be issued this afternoon it would be possible to let the public know better what can be done and where the responsibilities lie. This meeting, he said, would be particularly helpful to the Governors as they work with their State Legislatures during the coming months.

The President noted that he had received a number of suggestions on the possibility of some sort of tax write-off that might be instituted for individuals who build shelters, and he asked Gov. Rockefeller whether the Governors had any proposed legislation. Gov. Rockefeller replied in terms of the studies that had been made by Mr. McHugh with regard to shelter materials and means of financing. He added that there was no question but that if the States should take the initiative in a great program and the individuals would do their part, then a 5-year write-off would be a great help. The President made it clear that he had not talked to the Secretary of the Treasury, who undoubtedly would have misgivings about any loss of revenue.

Gov. Rockefeller commented that the Governors were clear in their understanding that the primary defense of the country is the military defense. However, civil defense remains extremely important in connection with insuring against "nuclear blackmail."

The President reverted to the amortization question, and asked Gov. McHugh if he had taken up the idea. Gov. McHugh said that he was talking to Treasury officials about it.

The President then left the meeting, commenting that he would be anxious to hear from the Governors at lunch as to the results of the meeting's discussions.

L. A. Minnich, Jr.