Memorandum

Date: February 28, 1980

To: Gene Peterson

From: Mike Burton

Subject: Veterans Administration Resolution

Marge was caught unaware of yours, my and several others'
action on the Veterans Administration (VA). The action is your
Resolution which it makes it difficult for her. My understand-
ing of where we are, (at least where I am), is:

1.   The Council informally decided to entertain Don
Clark's idea of $5,000 funding to Metro for a lawsuit;

2.   The Council, by consensus agreed to entertain the
suggestion if:

a.   There was a violation of the National Environ-
mental Protection Act (NEPA);

b.   The County was a party;

c.   There was an indicated willingness on the part
of the County to fund beyond the $5,000.

3.   We, the Council, are now waiting to hear from
Multnomah County;

4.   Expressed by Council, including myself, was that the
suit, if undertaken, must be narrowly defined to that
matter under which we, Metro, have any authority
i.e., violation of the Draft Environmental Impact
Statement (DEIS).

Therefore, your (and seven others) Resolution can be introduced
on Thursday, February 28, but it is moot until we hear from
Multnomah County. In other words, the Metro Council made no
commitment. I cannot speak for the Executive, other than to
entertain whatever Multnomah County may send us.

If Multnomah County comes back with $5,000 for the narrowly
defined purpose of issues on NEPA, then I believe we should go
ahead with the suit; and that is not an issue for public

debate. If, they come back with language which addresses the suit in such a way that what we are really doing is attacking national policy, we should tell them to go bake it. If, the Multnomah County Commissioners do not vote to give us the $5,000, the issue is moot.

Sorry I cannot be there Thursday, but let us not raise this as a big public issue unless it is necessary.

MB:bk
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