

January 12, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DWIGHT CHAPIN

FROM: PETER FLANIGAN

Secretary Laird talked to Fred Borch, Chairman of the Business Council and Chairman of General Electric, regarding the Administration's unhappiness with Brookings Institute. Laird said that the President felt that most liberal legislation first sees the light of day in Brookings, and therefore, he would like to see massive business support for the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) as a counter-balance. Laird suggested that Borch talk further to Dr. McCracken about this.

Borch did talk to McCracken and further talked to some of his business friends. They agreed that they will attempt to put together a strong financial supporting group for AEI. To do this, they want to pick a strong chairman and have settled on Harold Boeschstein. Boeschstein is Chairman of Owens Corning Fiberglass, as well as the director of many other important companies. Boeschstein has agreed to take the job if he can get a good board, which Fred Borch promises to provide. The second condition is that Boeschstein wants to be sure that the President is interested in having the job done.

I recommend that the President give Boeschstein a call at his earliest convenience. In the conversation he can say he understands Boeschstein has agreed to chair a fund-raising committee for the AEI and say how much he appreciates this important effort.

Boeschstein's telephone number is 212-Pl.9-3810.