

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
December 13, 1994

MEMORANDUM to LEON PANETTA

FROM: Carol H. Rasco *CHR*
SUBJECT: Conference of States

Per your request of me in the 7:30 a.m. meeting this morning, the following is what I know about the proposed Conference of States:

Governor Leavitt of Utah has led a discussion among governors regarding a Conference of States. As of now, Governor Dean, Chairman of the National Governors' Association (NGA), has resisted having the NGA serve as "home" for this Conference.

In the meantime, the Council of State Governments (CSG) has taken on the role of organizer of the Conference. Governor Leavitt and Governor Nelson (Nebraska) will be the two governors heading the steering committee effort for CSG. CSG will also appoint two state legislators to the steering committee and ask NGA and NCSL (National Conference of State Legislators) to appoint two individuals each from their organizations.

This 8 member steering committee will draft language to be presented to state legislatures in early January. NCSL has indicated to NGA today they show an early potential of as many as 25 states that might ratify the "call" by late January. The language is presently slated to outline the number of delegates to the Conference (1 Governor, 4 state legislators), which is targeted for early summer or fall in Philadelphia. The purpose of the conference is to adopt things the states can initiate: constitutional amendments as well as overturn regulations and laws.

It is my sense this concept is gaining momentum among governors (bi-partisan), and I am told some Congressional Republicans are encouraging the governors.

I am not a student of this type of issue, but it seems to me we should be fully informed if not engaged to some extent. If no one in The White House has discussed this in-depth with any of the governors, I would recommend at a minimum that Marcia Hale, Abner Mikva, and I meet with Governor Nelson. There are perhaps other configurations of White House personnel who should participate in such a meeting.

Please advise.

Thank You.

cc: Marcia Hale