

8-13-74 NYT

Beame and Other Mayors To Meet Ford Tomorrow

By EDWARD RANZAL

Mayor Beame and 13 other mayors from across the country will meet with President Ford tomorrow to discuss the economic plight of the cities and to press for an anti-inflation program that will be equitable to everyone.

During the one-hour meeting, the top officers of the United States Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities are expected to bear down hard for mass-transportation subsidies, continued revenue sharing and prompt Federal funding for housing and community development.

John J. Gunther, executive director of the Conference of Mayors, said the agenda for the meeting had not been set by the mayors, but he expected them to discuss inflation, pending legislation and the national budget.

After receiving a congratulatory telegram from the mayors on his assumption to office, and a request for a meeting, President Ford promptly invited them to meet with him tomorrow from 4 P.M. to 5 P.M. at the White House.

Participants Listed

In addition to Mayor Beame, other mayors expected to attend are Joseph L. Alioto of San Francisco, president of the Conference of Mayors; Moon Landrieu of New Orleans, vice president of the conference; Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark, chairman of the conference's advisory board; Thomas Bradley of Los Angeles, president of the National League of Cities; E. J. Garn of Salt Lake City, first vice president of the league; Carlos Romero of San Juan, second vice president of the League.

Also, Ben Boo of Duluth, Minn.; Richard G. Hatcher, Gary, Ind.; Ann Kilgore, Hampton, Va.; Robert LaFortune,

Tulsa, Okla.; John Orestis, Lewiston, Me.; Eugene Peters, Scranton, Pa., and Richard E. Lugar, Indianapolis. Richard J. Daley of Chicago was invited but was not expected to attend.

This will be Mayor Beame's third trip to Washington in quest of Federal dollars to maintain the city's 35-cent subway fare.

Representative Bella S. Abzug, Manhattan Democrat and a member of the House Public Workers Committee, said yesterday at a City Hall news conference on support for Federal mass transportation subsidies that Mr. Ford's record in Congress indicated that he had opposed such subsidies in the past.

Ford Position Detailed

However, Mr. Gunther pointed out that when Mr. Ford, as Vice President, addressed the United States Conference of Mayors last February, he spoke of a need for operating subsidies for mass transportation.

In a 45-minute session at the White House last February, former President Richard M. Nixon told Mayor Beame that he wanted to help New York City with problems involving mass transit, the fuel shortage, narcotics treatment and antipoverty agencies.

As a result of that meeting, Mr. Nixon set up a liaison committee to work with the city on its problems. Yesterday Mr. Beame said he expected his staff to continue to work with the liaison committee, which apparently continues under President Ford.

Representative Abzug estimated that the city would get a total of about \$1-billion annually if the six-year, \$20-billion bill for construction and operating expenses was passed and then signed by President Ford.



The New York Times

Mayor Beame and Representative Bella S. Abzug at City Hall yesterday. They joined in an appeal to President Ford for support of a bill for transportation aid.