

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1940

Respectfully referred to the
Chairman of the Board of Governors
of the Federal Reserve System.

By direction of the President:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin M. Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
730 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 20, 1940.

Memorandum

To: President F. H. LaGuardia
From: Paul V. Betters, Executive Director

From reports submitted to the Conference of Mayors, scores of cities have land, vacant properties, airports, and other facilities which are available to the Federal Government in the prosecution of the National Defense Program. Officials of many of these cities have come to Washington during recent days to offer these facilities to the Government. They go from their Congressional delegation to the War Department to the C.A.A. to the Navy Department to the National Defense Council to the National Advisory Council on Aeronautics to the WPA to the Federal Works Agency to the N.Y.A. and elsewhere in an effort to ascertain whether their cooperation is needed or required.

All of this confusion and waste motion could be eliminated if an Office of Coordinator of Local Cooperation could be created, under the appropriate Federal agency, to which Office all cities could submit information and data. In view of the present situation, I suggest that you recommend to the President that such an Office be established. This Office could see to it that information on all local resources and facilities would be placed in the proper channels.

Further, the Conference of Mayors could be most helpful to the Government as it is in position to furnish data from any city on a few hours' notice.

After all, the major cities are essential keys to national security, and we should do everything in our power to insure effective cooperation and coordination.

F. H. LAGUARDIA