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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 12, 1984

The President today signed the following legislation:

- S. 518 which authorizes the use of grants or cooperative agreements under which older Americans would assist Federal, State and local environmental agencies in pollution prevention, abatement, and control;
- S. 2413 which grants a federal corporate charter to American Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated;
- H.R. 3547 which extends the authority of the Mayor of the District of Columbia to borrow from the U.S. Treasury to finance capital projects;
- H.R. 5287 which corrects a problem affecting the Challenge Grant Program for developing institutions under the Higher Education Act; provides immediate funding for the Lincoln/Cheyney State Urban Education Foundation project; and reauthorizes or amends several other Department of Education programs; and
- H.R. 5308 which increases the amount authorized to be appropriated for the annual federal payment to the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON

June 26, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD A. HAUSER

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS 26C

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill H.R. 4201 -- Rescheduling

of Methaqualone for Purposes of the

Controlled Substances Act

Richard Darman has asked for comments on the abovereferenced enrolled bill by close of business today.
This bill would require the Attorney General to reclassify
methaqualone as a Schedule I controlled substance. Under
the scheduling system established by the Controlled
Substances Act of 1970, Schedule I substances may not
legally be prescribed. Methaqualone, commonly known as
"quaalude," is currently a Schedule II substance, and may
legally be prescribed as a sedative.

Justice has no objection to approval of the bill, but notes that it will have little effect. Most of the quaaludes abused in this country are not diverted from legal channels but enter the country illegally; the only legal manufacturer of methaqualone has in fact already ceased production. HHS recommends approval, noting the high abuse potential of methaqualone and the fact that other equally effective alternatives exist for its legitimate use. OMB recommends approval.

I have reviewed the memorandum for the President prepared by OMB Acting Assistant Director for Legislative Reference Naomi Sweeney, and the bill itself, and have no objections. It is unfortunate that the reclassification of quaaludes was not done administratively before this bill was passed, since the idea is sound and it now looks like Congress, not the Administration, is taking the initiative. Enforcement and prosecution efforts should be eased now that there will be no question that any quaaludes are illegal.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

June 26, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RICHARD A. HAUSER/S/RBH

DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill H.R. 4201 -- Rescheduling

of Methaqualone for Purposes of the

Controlled Substances Act

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced enrolled bill, and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

RAH: JGR: aea 6/26/84

cc: FFFielding/RAHauser/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WASHINGTON

June 26, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RICHARD A. HAUSER

DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill H.R. 4201 -- Rescheduling

of Methagualone for Purposes of the

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cc: FFFielding/RAHauser/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

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WHITE HOUSE

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/25/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: C.O.D. TUESDAY, 6/26

SUBJECT: _	Enrolled	Bill H.R. 4	1201	- Res	cheduling of Metha	aqualone for	
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Please provide any comments/recommendations on the attached enrolled bill by c.o.b. TUESDAY, JUNE 26.							
Tha	ank you.						

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2702

RESPONSE:



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

JUN 25 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 4201 - Rescheduling of Methaqualone for Purposes of the Controlled Substances Act
Sponsors - Rep. Rowland (D) Georgia and 3 others

Last Day for Action

July 2, 1984 - Monday

Purpose

To reschedule methaqualone from schedule II to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Justice

Approval No objection

Discussion

The Controlled Substances Act of 1970 established a comprehensive program for the regulation of controlled substances. Under the 1970 Act, a controlled substance — a drug or other substance with potential for abuse — is classified in one of five schedules, depending upon the risk that it poses. A schedule I substance, for example, is a drug or other substance with a high potential for abuse and for which there is no current accepted medical use in the United States. Such a drug cannot be lawfully prescribed. A schedule II substance, by contrast, is a drug or other substance with a high potential for abuse but for which there is a currently accepted medical use. The Department of Justice makes all determinations regarding the scheduling of substances under the Controlled Substances Act, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Methaqualone is a central nervous system depressant, used as a sedative and sleeping aid, and commonly known as "Quaalude". The drug was placed in schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act in 1973 in response to an apparently increasing problem of abuse and misuse, especially among young adults. According to the report of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce On

H.R. 4201, despite strict controls on the distribution of methaqualone, its abuse and diversion into the illegal drug market have continued to increase. Between 1978 and 1980, for example, admissions to hospital emergency rooms involving methaqualone increased by over 150 percent.

The enrolled bill attempts to deal with the increased availability and abuse of methaqualone by requiring the Attorney General to transfer methaqualone from schedule II to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The effect of the bill is to make it unlawful to prescribe methaqualone. As a schedule I substance, methaqualone would be available only for "bona fide research." H.R. 4201 also contains a conforming amendment directing HHS to withdraw approval of methaqualone under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Continued approval of methaqualone under that Act would not be appropriate, according to the committee report, in light of methaqualone's reclassification as a schedule I substance.

Agency Views

In testimony before the Congress, the Departments of Justice and HHS opposed overriding the established administrative scheduling process of the Controlled Substances Act by legislative rescheduling.

Justice, while not objecting to approval of H.R. 4201, notes in its enrolled bill views letter that about 90 percent of the methaqualone in the United States has been brought into the country illicitly, and that "banning the legitimate dispensing of this drug, even in light of the serious problem of its abuse, is an overreaction where the drug continues to have an accepted use in medical practice and other enforcement efforts are proving fruitful."

HHS, in its views letter, agrees that H.R. 4201 is unnecessary but recommends approval, because (1) methaqualone has a high abuse potential; (2) it has no unique or therapeutic advantages over other approved and marketed drugs; and (3) the bill will have no practical effect on the legal drug market, since the only legal manufacturer of methaqualone has ceased production and distribution of the drug.

H.R. 4201 passed both Houses by voice vote.

(Signed) Nacmi R. Sweeney

Acting Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 29, 1984

The President today signed the following:

H.R. 3131 which permits Marina Kunyavsky to become a U.S. citizen by waiving certain immigration law requirements;

H.R. 3221 which directs payment of \$15,475.59 to Harvey E. Ward, a retired enlisted member of the Coast Guard, in settlement of his claim against the United States for withheld disability retired pay; and

H.R. 4201 which reschedules methaqualone from schedule II to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

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