

For the signing some 40 staff members of OMB were present. The President entered the room accompanied by ~~the~~ outgoing OMB director Roy Ash. There was one paragraph added to the ~~the~~ printed text of the statement. It has been put out by the press office as a supplement. In spite of acknowledging the OMB people and Ash during the statement he continued to look into the cameras...never turning his head. He read quietly and without the usual emphasis of a speech. At the conclusion he signed the green-bound document and remarked to Ash, "why didn't we send up these with the same red color?" (a reference to the paperback copies). To which Ash responded: "It would have been cheaper, too." The President then joked that ~~the right hand~~ left handers ~~might~~ ~~appear~~ might appear awkward signing documents, but did you notice those two left handers playing tennis yesterday? (paraphrase) Later, handing the bound copy to Ash the President said, "well, there's the bad news but if it's followed by the congress there will be good news, too." Mr. Ford then shook hands with Ash and five other OMB officials and gave them pens. The five were: Paul O'Neill; Wallace Scott; John Hill; Don Ogilvie and Dale ~~Ember~~ ^{Mac}Ember. The president's final comments were, "we'll try to have a better one next year but this one was the best we could have this year under the economic circumstances and the facts of life."

Kempster Washington Star

Bell ABC