

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, March 1, 1976
9:30 - 10:18 a.m.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6

PLACE: The Oval Office

MR 01-101, # 29, OSD, LCA 3/2/04

del NARA, Date 7/26/04

Rumsfeld: The Gallup Poll is showing an eight percent shift in people thinking Defense spending is too low.

The Defense subcommittee is cutting \$100 million from the budget. I think with the leaders you should say you have tightened it as much as possible. Say: "We have got to stop the tradition of cutting \$5-8 billion each year. The House is better this year and I don't expect you to agree exactly, but I think the country will be served only if you come in at my level -- or higher. If you want to disagree, do it on both sides -- up and down."

I think the Armed Services Committee will come in over your budget. So we would go to the Budget Committee with one committee over and one under.

President: We got to make the fight in the Budget Committee, not in November.

I met with David Lindsay of the Sarasota paper. He started talking about overcommitment to Israel on tanks. I explained the production situation to him. He said Schlesinger wasn't a good Secretary -- too much in the clouds. He wants to talk to you. He is a little pompous, but he is a serious guy.



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Rumsfeld: Okay, I will.

Greener is running our best people out for press briefings. It is having a very good effect.

President: Schlesinger thought all he had to do is get McClellan and Mahon on board. The Chairmen can't deliver any more.

Rumsfeld: Lockheed.

President: I see Canada has reaffirmed.

Rumsfeld: Not really. We think we are okay but that was just an offhand remark by the Minister of Defense.

My personal feeling is Lockheed ought to go under. It is such a mess and I hope Simon and the others don't try to bail it out. I would let it sink, and even push it.

[There was some discussion of Ikle's press briefing and statements on cruise missile verification].



P/R

1 Mar 76

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R. Gallup poll showing 8% shift in people thinking
 Def spending too low.
 Def reluctant to cutting 900 mil from budget
 I think w/c leaders you should say you have
 tightened it as much as possible. We got to
 stop a tradition of cutting 5-8 bil each year.
 House better this year & I don't expect you to
 agree exactly, but I think a country will be
 served only if you come in at my level -
 or higher. If you want to disagree, do it
 on both sides - up & down.

I think Armed Services will come in over your
 budget. So we would go to budget committee w/ one
 vote over one under.

P We got to make a fight in a budget committee,
 not in here.

I met w/ David Lindsay of Sears paper. He said
 started talking about agreement to I on tanks.

I explained a production situation to him. He said
 Schlessinger a good guy - too much in clouds.
 He wants to talk to you. He a little young, but he
 a serious guy.

R OK, I will.

Greener is running our best people out for
 press briefings. It is having a very good effect

P Schlessinger that all he had to do is get Mr. Gilman
 & Nathan on board. Chance can't deliver any more.

R Lockheed.

P I see Conata has reappeared.

R Not really. We think we OK but that was just
 an offhand remark by Min Def.

My personal feeling is her head ought to go under

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AUTHORITY Am. M. D. L. 101, #29, OSO Ltr. 3/12/04

BY lh NLF, DATE 7/22/04



It is such a mess & I hope Simon et al don't try
to haul it out. I would let it sink & even push it.

(Some discussion of Ible press briefing
and statements re cruise missile
implication)

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