

The original documents are located in Box 54, folder “President - State of the Union Address, 1977” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: PHILIP W. BUCHEN *P.*

SUBJECT: 1977 State of the Union
Message

The draft you submitted with your memorandum of December 29 represents a superb job in my opinion. The tone is lofty and the suggestions covered most comprehensive. Possibly the only remark that is not in keeping with the tone of the rest of the message is that which faults the press for not finding fault with itself (page 4).

In the event the President chooses not to give a separate farewell to the Nation, it would be desirable to emphasize and dramatize in this message either of the following themes:

1. The need for highest ethical standards in government; or
2. The President's philosophy of government.

The latter suggestion is touched upon at the top of page 6 and again on page 21. However, a more dramatic presentation of what is likely to happen if the current trends of government growth and intrusion on the private sector continue would make the message, as a farewell message, a more memorable one.