

The original documents are located in Box 44, folder “1975/05/06 - Press Conference” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESS CONFERENCE

SOCIAL SECURITY

Question:

The Social Security Trustees have forwarded their report to the Congress. They say that in 1975, for the first time, social security expenditures will exceed outgo -- by \$3 billion. What will you do about this crisis?

Answer:

First of all, let me say that there is no crisis in our social security system. We've known what the trustees' report would be. It doesn't differ from the earlier report of the Social Security Advisory Council. We have plenty of reserves to meet the system's needs over the next several years.

The Domestic Council has been working to pull together recommendations to provide the necessary additional financing. We expect to have those recommendations shortly.

You can be assured that we will take any appropriate measures to maintain stability of the system both in the long and short term.

Background:

The Social Security Trustees -- the Secretaries of HEW, Labor, and Treasury -- have forwarded their annual report to Congress. It predicts a 5 percent deficit over the next 75 years.

This is the same problem outlined by the Social Security Advisory Council. The Domestic Council has been working with HEW in preparing options for your review.

PGN
5/5/75



[ca. 5/6/75]

Q Governor Carey, Mayor Beame and other officials and bankers from New York City were here today. We understand that New York City may not be able to meet its next payroll. Is the Federal Government going to be able to help?

A I understand that Secretary Simon, Arthur Burns and other officials met today at the request of Governor Carey to discuss New York's problem.

I have not had a report on the meeting. I would point out that this is essentially a New York City - New York state problem.

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

Question

Mr. President: How have State and local leaders reacted to your call for humanitarian assistance for the Vietnamese refugees?

Answer

I have received very positive communications from several Governors and Mayors supporting the thrust of my request for humanitarian assistance and stating a position of readiness and willingness on the part of State and local governments to help in this regard.

This has not been a partisan response, Governor Askew of Florida, Governor Pryor of Arkansas, and Governor Aryoshi of Hawaii are some of the Democrats; Governor Evans of Washington is one of the Republicans and Governor Longley of Maine, who is of course, an independent have all stated in eloquent terms there willingness to help these displaced Vietnamese.

Mayor Alioto of San Francisco, Mayor Lugar of Indianapolis and Mayor Fasi of Honolulu have likewise volunteered.

Federal efforts will be fully coordinated with State and local efforts to assure that our efforts are not in vain.

Note: Samples of correspondence attached.

Mayor Alioto (D), San Francisco
Governor Longley (I) Maine

JHF - 5/6/75



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

JAMES B. LONGLEY
GOVERNOR

April 30, 1975

James B. Longley
Handwritten

Gerald E. Ford, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford:

This is a difficult day in Southeast Asia but the great hope and faith in the world, I feel, is still America and men like President Ford. I simply want you to know that I am not writing as Governor of Maine but as an individual citizen of the United States to tell you that my thoughts and prayers were with you in church this morning as they are with you each and every day to help lighten your load and give you and Betty moments of happiness which you so richly deserve.

Once again, there isn't anything you can ask me to do to help you help this country that I wouldn't try to do.

Very truly yours,

Jim Longley
James B. Longley

JBL:bh



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

JAMES B. LONGLEY
GOVERNOR

April 30, 1975

*Common
To read*

Gerald E. Ford, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford:

The State of Maine wants to do whatever it can with summer camp availability to serve as a temporary bed and board situation for any displaced Vietnamese children. As Governor of the State I pledge the resources of the state to help these young orphans.

Very truly yours,

Jim Longley
James B. Longley

JBL:bh

The White House
Washington

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PHS THE HONORABLE GERALD R FORD

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, WHILE IN EUROPE LAST WEEK, I READ WITH DISHAY SOME OF THE AMERICAN OBJECTIONS TO THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR HUMANITARIAN POLICY REPRESENTS THE BEST IN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL TRADITION AND WE SUPPORT IT VERY STRONGLY. SAN FRANCISCO IS WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SUPPORT BY TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING YOUR POLICY. HISTORICALLY WE HAVE HAD THE LONGEST EXPERIENCE

WITH ASIANS AND A SUBST/TIAL ELEMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY IS, IN FACT, A MOSAIOF MANY ASIAN NATIONALITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THE RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AS GROUPS IS THE MOST DESIRABLE APPROACH. IT WILL ALLOW THEM TO RETAIN THEIR CULTURE AND CUSTOMS WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES, AS THEY DEAL WITH THE PROBKLENS OF ENTERING THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN LIFE. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE FEDERAL PROPERITIES AVAILABLE IN THE AREA WHICH MIGHT BE UTILIZED ON AN INTERIM BASIS FOR THIS PURPOSE, IN SAN FRANCISCO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE WILL BE PLEASED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH WHOMEVER YOU DESIGNATE. KIN??//XXXXXXX KINDEST REGARDS AND ALL BEST WISHES

JOSEPH L ALIOTO MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO

NNNN

IMPACT OF STRIP MINING BILL
ON COSTS OF ELECTRICITY

Question:

The opponents of the strip mining bill are contending that it will increase the cost of electricity. The supporters of the bill contend this is not true. Can you tell us which side is right, how much cost would be increased, and whether this is a factor you are considering in your decision of whether you will veto or sign the bill?

Answer:

There is no question but that the strip mining bill would increase consumer costs, particularly for electricity.

The higher costs will impact electrical rates because most coal is used in producing electricity. The higher costs will come from two principal sources:

- . The bill will reduce domestic coal production and this lost production will be replaced by foreign oil which is much more expensive than coal.
- . The bill will impose other costs that will show up in either higher prices or taxes. These include:
 - a. A new excise tax on coal which is expected to cost about \$150 million per year.
 - b. Higher coal production and reclamation costs in the neighborhood of \$175 million per year.
 - c. Costs of running the Federal and state regulatory programs of \$90 million per year.
 - d. Unemployment compensation for those who are put out of work by the bill.

Follow-up Question:

What will be the impact on an average home-owner's electric bill?

Answer:

I can't convert these higher costs to an increase in an electric bill. The impact will vary from one electrical system to another depending upon how much the system now relies on coal. Also, the impact would depend heavily on whether the production losses -- and resulting imports of expensive foreign oil -- can be minimized.

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[ca. 5/6/75]

Q What is the President's position on Federal No Fault Automobile Insurance?

A I support the concept of No Fault Automobile Insurance for the protection of every motorist.

I would like every state to have a No Fault Insurance law, which would alleviate the necessity of the Federal Government having to pass a Federal No Fault Insurance law.

The regulation of insurance has traditionally been ^{primarily} a responsibility of the states and in support of our Federal system, I would like to see that responsibility remain with the states.

The Department of Transportation has provided technical assistance to states considering No Fault Insurance programs, and I have asked Secretary Coleman to continue to work with the states in advancing state laws in this important area.

[ca. 5/6/75]

Q Can you tell us about the news report over the weekend indicating Secretary Weinberger's departure from the Cabinet?

A I have no announcement to make on that.

Those of you who saw the John Hershey article in the New York Times a few weeks ago know that I think highly of Secretary Weinberger and have asked that the Secretary remain in the Cabinet.

I have nothing to say beyond that this evening.

[ca. 5/6/75]

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