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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...8

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NOV 8 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRANK G. ZARB *FZ*

THROUGH: SECRETARY ROGERS MORTON *RBM*

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL COAL STRIKE *MRJ.*

The purpose of this memorandum is to bring you up to date on where we stand on the coal negotiations and governmental plans for responding to a strike if one occurs.

The Negotiations

- . Although both sides are close to agreement, positions are beginning to harden on selected economic and non-economic issues. It is possible a formal agreement may not be reached before the current contract expires on Tuesday, November 12.
- . Even if an agreement is reached this weekend, we will still have a strike of short duration (10 - 14 days). Failure to reach agreement before Tuesday will indicate a strike of indefinite duration.
- . If an agreement is reached, ratification by the membership is required and considering the political and economic factors, it could be rejected.

Government Contingency Plans

The Government must prepare for the possibility of a lengthy strike. Therefore, the following contingency actions are necessary:

- . The Department of Labor has begun preliminary work on preparing a Taft-Hartley injunction. Responsibility for this aspect of the issue belongs to Labor, Justice and the Economic Policy Board.
- . Monitoring of exports will begin immediately by the Department of Commerce if a strike occurs. Curtailment of exports is still under consideration.
- . We will be meeting with selected State representatives to help insure coal supplies for extreme hardships (hospitals, homeowners, etc.). Allocation of coal has been considered and rejected. If a strike occurs, there will not be enough coal to allocate and the physical constraints are prohibitive.

We will keep you informed on the situation on a regular basis.