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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN A.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS WASHINGTON

ALAN GREENSPAN, CHAIRMAN WILLIAM J. FELLNER GARY L. SEEVERS

December 3, 1974



MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Manufacturers' Orders, Shipments and Inventories in October

New orders received by manufacturers fell almost 1 percent in October following a decline of more than 3-1/2 percent in September. On a physical volume basis the corresponding changes are -2.8 percent for October and -4.3 percent for September. With demand weakening, businessmen are cutting back their orders in order to reduce inventories. This is typically happening in the recession phase of the business cycle and while it is happening it has a depressing effect on manufacturing production and employment.

The book value of manufacturers' inventories rose \$2.1 billion in October, which was the smallest increase since April. The ratio of inventories to shipments edged down in October but was well above the ratio of October 1973.

These figures were released on Tuesday, December 3 at 2:00 p. m.

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