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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *by.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: THE STAFF SECRETARY
FROM: ROLAND ELLIOTT *RE*
SUBJECT: Incoming Presidential Mail
for the Week of February 17-21, 1975

Incoming Presidential mail for this week totaled 33,000 pieces. Mail specifically on economic or energy problems has begun a noticeable decline; only 5,000 pieces this week, or about 15% of total Presidential mail, compared to 22% last week.

~~Related~~ to economic/energy matters, there is increasing comment on what is seen as unreasonable or extravagant Federal spending. Protests focus on various Congressional spending programs and "housekeeping" expenses, on the Atlanta dinner, and the heated swimming pool at Camp David.

Federal budget mail remains light (459 pieces this week), and is largely negative (334 pieces). Most criticized the proposed deficit because of its inflationary impact. An isolated view is expressed by religious publishers who protest your failure to call for funds to compensate the Postal Service for losses under the phase-in agreement of S. 411 (second-class postage increase).

Mail on various other subjects includes: End the Agriculture Department's grain export monitoring system (481 pieces); use U.S. bargaining power to reduce the price of Arab oil (1,099 pieces); requests for funds to extend the "Green Thumb Program" (45 pieces), which provides part-time jobs for the rural elderly.

There have also been protests against lifting of the predator poison ban (2,136 pieces; interestingly, mostly from the Eastern U.S.); and against proposals to make military commissaries self-supporting (1,109 pieces).

Finally, you received 406 pieces of mail on the proposed appointment of Mrs. Hills as HUD Secretary (pro: 3; con: 403). Most criticize her alleged lack of background and experience in the housing field.

cc: Paul Theis