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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim -

You will note that not everybody
handles handwriting as closely as
as we do ---

Trudy

A large, bold, handwritten checkmark is drawn in black ink. The checkmark is positioned to the left of the name 'Trudy', with its upper right point touching the first letter of the name.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PAUL THEIS 

Attached are speech drafts of the following:

1. Libby Dam, which incorporates your suggestions for something on fishing and boating.
2. The Hardware Industry Convention, which includes your proposed changes as well as those of Alan Greenspan, Bill Seidman and Paul O'Neill.
3. The Milwaukee White House Conference, which you have not yet seen.

In the Hardware speech, you suggested changes on page 13 of the draft (a copy of which is stapled to this memo) which Paul O'Neill of OMB says could cause trouble. The problem is, according to O'Neill, that the Federal Government ended fiscal 1975 with 52,000 fewer employees than was originally planned (in the fiscal 1975 budget) before you ordered a cutback last August. (A copy of O'Neill's earlier memo to you is also stapled to this memo.) Actually, according to O'Neill, total Federal employment as of June 30, 1974, was 1,916,304; as of June 30, 1975, it was 1,915,730. That's an actual reduction of only 574 employees. I wanted to "flag" you on this point so you would understand why the wording is changed from what you had written into the draft.

If you want to meet with Alan Greenspan, Bob Orben and myself sometime Saturday to further discuss any of these changes, we will be available. Bob Orben is preparing some light remarks to use at the Chicago Yacht Club reception on Sunday -- and these will be ready tomorrow.

Attachments

My objective is to get the Federal Government as far out of your business, out of your lives, out of your pockets and out of your hair -- as I can!

To this end, within three weeks after I came into office last August, I directed the heads of the Federal departments and agencies to reduce the personnel for whom they had requested funds for the remainder of the fiscal year by 40,000. Actually, I can report to you today that their performance exceeded my directive: We ended fiscal year 1975 with 52,000 ^{*a reduction or cutback of*} ~~fewer~~ employees than planned.

As for those 5,000 government forms, I can tell you this: Several months ago, I directed Jim Lynn, who heads the Office of Management and Budget, to examine, analyze, evaluate -- and then throw out as many of these time-wasters as he can. I want to see the American businessman pushing merchandise -- not pencils!



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

Nease

AUG 13 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: PAUL H. O'NEILL *O'Neill*
SUBJECT: Meeting the 40,000 Employment
Reduction

It is my pleasure to bring you good news--for a change. Not only has the Federal Government met your employment reduction goal of 40,000 for FY 75 but we actually ended the year 12,400 employees below the ceiling you set.

Last August you announced a 40,000 employment reduction from levels planned in the 1975 Budget. This was aimed at holding civilian Federal employment in the Executive Branch in full-time permanent positions (excluding the Postal Service) at or below 1,928,100 on June 30, 1975.

The Civil Service Commission informs us that full-time permanent employment as of June 30, 1975 stood at 1,915,700 or 12,400 below the goal you set last August.

*Congratulations
Should Ron N. make
an announcement.*