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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
FROM: JAMES E. CONNOR *je*
SUBJECT: Muskie Speech

The President reviewed your memorandum of January 23 on the above subject and made the following notation.:

"Excellent. Give copy to Bob Orben promptly."

With a copy of this memorandum we are sending Bob Orben a copy of the statement.

cc: Dick Cheney
Bob Orben

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*

SUBJECT: Muskie Speech

John Anderson issued the attached statement criticizing the Muskie speech.

*Excellent.
Give copy to Bob's office promptly.*

NEWS

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

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JOHN B. ANDERSON, M.C. (ILL.)
CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL F. MACLEOD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 1976

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN B. ANDERSON ON MUSKIE COUNTER STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. Speaker, since I have already publicly commented on President Ford's State of the Union message, I think in the interest of fairness I should give equal time to Senator Muskie's counter message of last evening. The Democratic spokesman opened by observing that the State of the Union is not what the President or the Democrats say it is, but rather the condition in which we find ourselves. After criticizing the Administration for not doing enough to stimulate economic recovery and put people back to work, the Senator concluded by proclaiming that the State of the Union is "very strong indeed."

After correctly pinpointing public dissatisfaction with government spending and programs, the Senator proposed that the answer was more government spending and programs to solve all our Nation's problems. While the Democrats have faulted the President's message for being short on specifics and new programs, they have countered with promises of all manner of new programs, but curiously lacking in specifics. Despite the Senator's concession that increased Federal spending for such programs could further fuel inflation, he failed to indicate the costs of the Democratic proposals and whether they just might prove to be inflationary. Instead, the Senator suggested that we have nothing to fear so long as we have a congressional budget process to keep track of the mounting costs and label the sum total a spending ceiling. Moreover, our fears of excessive government spending could be allayed if only we ran the government in a more businesslike manner. Never mind that our experience with government efficiency might suggest that some things could better be done by other sectors. . . .

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, it struck me that the Democratic spokesman was speaking out of both sides of his mouth while biting his tongue in the hope that nobody would catch the glaring contradictions. Put another way, in attempting to span both the Wallace and McGovern wings of the Democratic Party, the message executed a perfect spread-eagle and fell flat on its beak.