OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESS CONFERENCE OF SENATOR HUGH SCOTT AND CONGRESSMAN LESLIE C. ARENDS

THE BRIEFING ROOM

AT 10:50 A.M. EST

MR. ZIEGLER: The Leadership Meeting this morning lasted for close to two hours and Congressman Ford had to go back to the Hill to attend to business he had committed himself to there. Congressman Leslie Arends is here to tell you a little about the meeting this morning and take your questions, together with Senator Scott. We will begin with Congressman Arends.

CONGRESSMAN ARENDS: We had a particularly interesting part of the session this morning with a presentation by Dr. Dunlop on food prices. I repeat it was rather lengthy and in detail and very illuminating.

My understanding is that this release today will be made available and something worthwhile studying and presenting some facts to the American people, which I think they particularly ought to know, that was given to us this morning.

Do you have any hope they will come down, Congressman?

CONGRESSMAN ARENDS: No, not at this particular time, but the battle is being waged, shall we say, and being optimistic, I think as we look down the road, we will eventually find we are moving in the right direction without the freezing of certain elements of the economy in order to bring this about.

I speak probably from the standpoint of one who is terribly interested in agriculture out in our part of the country and while we have these complaints about the prices of meats, et cetera, I think the matter of production that we will see following in the months ahead will alleviate the condition that I would refer to in a reasonable length of time.

SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Stein also spoke on the economy generally, and Mr. Ash on the budget, and the point was made several times that busting the budget will have a disastrous effect on the cost of living and on the tax increase. And the President and his advisers pointed out that his moves on dairy imports, meat imports, stockpiles and the forthcoming Message to remove the three cent a pound tariff on meat imports are all part of an all-out war to reduce the cost of living, particularly the cost of food and similar commodities, And the paper entitled "Food Prices" which will be made available will make the point as to how seriously this is being worked on, and will make the further points as to the percentage of change in prices of food in various countries. There will be a chart which

will demonstrate that the international comparison of food consumer price changes over a year, that it has been higher in all the major countries of the world than in the United States, ranging from 8.7 percent in France to 4.9 percent in Japan, as against 4.8 in the United States from November, 1971 to 1972.

The further point is made that the restraint on the increase in the price of food will be expected to be rather marked in the second half of the year and that the food price outlook for that second half rests on a pattern of expanding food supplies and the production of food commodities in meat and dairy products, poultry and eggs, food grains, vegetables, fruits and nuts, will all be substantially improved for the year 1973.

Q Do you think it will be a comfort to the housewife now?

SENATOR SCOTT: Nothing is a comfort to a housewife who has to pay an increased cost for food, and this is painful and difficult. It is transitory, as these food price increases have been over the years. They go up and they come down, if they are wisely handled. Many of them are too high now and are very difficult for housewives, as we know.

But I believe there is a definite improvement coming and the figures available to the White House, through the Department of Agriculture and elsewhere, would indicate that this, in fact, is the case. For example, there will be an increase in the production of pork products, which is one illustration that will have an effect on beef. By comparison with an earlier year, in the fourth quarter of last year, it is anticipated that pork will be up 5-5/10 percent. Broilers and milk will be up, eggs about the same, and beef will be up.

Q Was there any sentiment expressed at all for putting controls on farm prices at the farm level?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, it was discussed, but the problem of a freeze at the farm level is that it would work for about 60 days, maybe 90, and would be temporarily greeted as popular and then the upward push and pressures on it would probably defeat the original purpose.

It is tempting to consider price freezes on food at the source, but the history of that type of freeze is after 90 days it doesn't work.

Q Did they make a comparison between February of 1972 and February of 1973?

SENATOR SCOTT: The price comparisons in here are in November, but the price comparisons as to the price of food in this country as against other major countries is February, 1973.

Q Senator, Congressman Mills, on Sunday, said that Phase III is not working and there should be a Phase IV with tighter controls. Was there any discussion of that?

SENATOR SCOTT: There was discussion of the always existing possibility of selected controls at any time on something that might get out of hand which could be controlled as distinguished from controlling the price of food at the source.

Q Such as on what?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, there was general discussion, lumber was mentioned as an illustration.

Q Rents?

SENATOR SCOTT: Rents were mentioned, but no decisive statement on policy.

Q Is there concern that Phase III is not working?

SENATOR SCOTT: There is simply a concern shared by all the American people that the cost of food is higher and it should be brought lower.

Q Sir, isn't there anything immediately that you all can do to bring about relief? Are you not concerned with the picket lines before the grocery stores, in say, New York City and other places?

SENATOR SCOTT: The Administration is doing things to bring about relief. The things I have mentioned, the matters pertaining to milk imports, to beef imports, to stockpiles, to the removal of the three cent tariff on beef imports, all of these things are designed to increase the supply, to ease the pressure and therefore, ultimately to lower the prices.

Q This three cents a pound on the meat, that hasn't come off yet, has it?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, that is a forthcoming recommendation of the President that we are authorized to mention.

Q I was checking on that yesterday at the Department of Agriculture. They said they were still studying to see if it could be done by Executive Order. Have you decided yet?

SENATOR SCOTT: I believe there will be a message to Congress on it.

Q In other words, Congress will have to act before that can be done?

SENATOR SCOTT: That is my understanding.

Q It will take quite a while.

SENATOR SCOTT: Not necessarily. If Congress is worried, as we all are, about price increases, Congress ought to act very promptly. They have shown they can in the past when sufficiently concerned.



Q Is it your anticipation that food prices will go down in the second half of the year or just that they won't go up so fast?

SENATOR SCOTT: It is my personal belief, based on this briefing today, that prices in the second half of the year should show a definite downward trend reducing the total annual average by a substantial amount.

Q Senator Scott, you said that the tariff was one of the items you discussed that you were authorized to mention. Did you talk about anything you are not authorized to mention out here by chance?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, I did not. Nothing that the President intends to submit.

Q How much concern is there over the rising interest rates? Is that going to bring another recession?

SENATOR SCOTT: That wasn't discussed. I have seen the discussions in the paper. I hope that interest rates can be held down. We have seen that the Federal Reserve Board is reported in the papers to have a concern about it. I would anticipate that is true. I think that has raised my interest rate at Riggs yesterday, so I have a personal interest.

Q Did you discuss further the Dean case and the Ervin committee's activities in terms of trying to get the White House counsel to testify?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, this was on the cost of living, not on the cost of loving. (Laughter)

Q Senator, did you discuss the infiltration of troops into South Vietnam?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, there was a brief discussion -- no, not on that subject. There was a brief discussion on the size of the armed forces, but not on Vietnam.

Q Could I ask you your personal opinion as to when U.S. troops are finally out of South Vietnam and the POWs are returned, at that point, do you consider the U.S. involvement in Vietnam to have ended?

SENATOR SCOTT: Now you are asking me something that was not covered today, so that obviously I am speaking for nobody, nobody but myself, and that ain't too much some days.

Q We will take what we can get, Senator.



SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Peter. Thank you so much. That is what I do. (Laughter)

- I do not think that that ends our involvement in the sense that we have made an agreement of peace and our involvement is contemplated in that agreement of peace, our concerns of peace in the world. It does end our military involvement insofar as the presence of troops are concerned.
- Q After that point then, would it be your personal opinion that the President should go to Congress to take any further military action in Vietnam?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, I will not face that question happily unless and until it comes up. It depends on the nature of any future action involved, which I would hope will not be necessary under any circumstances.

Q Do you think the President has a legal right to go into Vietnam again if the troops are pulled out and the POWs?

SENATOR SCOTT: Helen, that is a little too "iffy" for me to field. I think that the President has certain powers which have to be assessed by him as to what his functions are. He has, of course, a commitment to see that the terms of this peace are observed and he makes the judgment as to whether they are observed and whether or not he has any other plans if they are not, I am unable to say.

Q Senator, pursuing that, do you think the President has the power and the authority, without Congress saying so in advance, to bomb North Vietnam again?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, I think he had that power and I think if he did it again, he would do it under the conviction that he had the power again, but I am not passing on it because I don't know.

Q You are a supporter of Senator Javits. I think you are the co-sponsor of the Warpower Resolution which asks for Congress, after a 30-day period, to declare whether or not the President should continue involvement of this kind. Do you think that that kind of act, if it were in effect, would come into play at the point of our troops leaving South Vietnam?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, I have said I myself do not feel that this Warpower proposal has application to the present situation in Southeast Asia, but to future situations.

Q When does the future start?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, the future starts once I believe that we are satisfied that all is going along well in Southeast Asia. It refers to future military situations. This is, as of today, a continuing military situation.



Q That may be never in terms of war in the area as such.

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, I accept your metaphysical approach to that. I don't believe it will be never. I think this will be solved some day "on the 17th of ever," rather than the "17th of never," but I don't know when.

Q Do you have the impression that the President still backs Mr. Gray as fully as ever?

SENATOR SCOTT: I have the impression that having sent Mr. Gray's nomination up, the President's support is exactly the same as when he sent it up, and that is full.

Q Have you noticed any dimunition of White House lobbying in behalf of Mr. Gray as reported in the papers?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, I have not. The matter is before the Judiciary Committee, which is meeting again this morning, and the presence of people from the White House continues, their interest continues.

Q Sir, did you have any other Republican Members of the House and Senate in with you today?

SENATOR SCOTT: Yes, Ron will give you the names. We had four Senators and four Members of the House there. The President likes to call the wild cards, respectfully, Ron quickly tells me. (Laughter) And I think they enjoyed it. In fact, Representative Talcott of California expressed his very great pleasure on behalf of the eight Members there and thought how useful it was. I think it is very useful.

Q Could we get Mr. Arends views on the question involving the President's authority to initiate additional military actions in South Vietnam or against North Vietnam in the future, after our troops are withdrawn?

CONGRESSMAN ARENDS: At this particular moment I do not care to comment on that and that certainly was not discussed this morning. One thing we did discuss at length was the matter of the budget, which is of terrible importance to us at this particular time. Those of us who believe in the spending and limitation of spending are concerned about the continuing propositions and programs that come before us for additional spending efforts.

Now, those of us who feel strongly that we must remain within these spending limitations are going to do what we can to keep them there exactly, and I think you will see some real effort being put forth on our side of the House, as well as on the Senate side, to stay within those limitations and it gets itself right down to one bare fact of life. Either we are for or against it.

And when we say we are for the limitation, that means we are against an increased tax bill. It is just that simple, one, two.



So those of us who really feel this way about it and do not again want to inflict upon the American people a tax increase bill are continuing to continue the fight to limit the spending, regardless of how meritorious some people may feel about some sections of a bill, all sections which are important, of course, but which we think, at the present time, can be obviated for at least a period.

Q Did the President tell you he was going to veto any more bills you are interested in?

CONGRESSMAN ARENDS: No, he didn't say what he was going to be told or might be told. However, I want to be frank, I rather anticipate we will have additional vetoes, yes.

Q Did you speak to Mr. Ash about the impoundment of funds?

CONGRESSMAN ARENDS: Not about impoundment of funds, no. But he expressed himself in terms somewhat like this: the great importance and the one that will probably be the first veto, if it comes, will be the vocational rehabilitation bill which is now down here at the White House and ready for Presidential action, one way or another.

Q Do you go along with that veto?

CONGRESSMAN ARENDS: Yes, very emphatically.

SENATOR SCOTT: On this, the added cost is about \$600 million and a number of those programs, especially categorical programs, are included in medical bills or in other legislation and there is a \$200 million increase in vocational rehabilitation to be found in other legislation, an increase in the '74 budget of \$200 million, but the \$600 million in a bill, which we are told by Mr. Ash is incapable of being effectively administered, is apparently a budget busting bill and under those circumstances would be the first contribution to a tax increase.

Q Senator, if the spending were held to the current level, would the bill be approved, would it be signed by the President?

SENATOR SCOTT: It would be \$600 million less than the present bill.

CONGRESSMAN ARENDS: The fact is that the bill down here does not have the reduction in it. And that is the one he has to act on.

Q What is the price tag on the bill?

MR. ZIEGLER: We will check that for you.

SENATOR SCOTT: I would like to say that the President again assured Mr. Arends and me of the intention of the White House to fully cooperate with the Congress in all matters pertaining to their investigations, including the current ones; that he and we support what Senator Ervin's position was in the Gravel case before the Supreme Court as to the separation of powers and the necessity for the continuance of the separation.

Senator Ervin was a very good lawyer when he was arguing that side of the case in court. We agreed with him.



If any of you feel that the White House is not cooperating, the only thing to do is for the Congress to test that by asking questions. They can submit any questions they want, any interrogatories they want, to any person in the White House and they will be answered. That does not include a television spectacular on Capitol Hill, of course, if it would violate the separation of powers.

The White House has nothing to conceal and that is an authorized statement.

Q Would you extend this policy to newspaper reporters, that we can ask any question we would like of anybody on the White House staff and we will get an answer?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, Sarah, I wish you well. I would like to be able to do that and as far as I am concerned, I am for you.

Q When you said any questions or interrogatories, you mean to come back and follow up answers with more questions?

SENATOR SCOTT: I would assume that, yes, if the answers to the interrogatories do not seem to be fully responsive, then other questions could be submitted. Any information which the Congressional committees want, in these two investigations, can be had, but it can be had without being turned into a circus or spectacular and it can be had as long as it doesn't violate the separation of powers.

Q Senator, what do you think about oral interrogatories in closed sessions?

SENATOR SCOTT: Larry, I do not believe that that is what the White House contemplates. We have them in connection with other investigations, but it is not contemplated here because of the separation of powers problem.

Q You said that this was an authorized statement you were making. Is the President concerned that if Mr. Dean or other White House aides went to the Hill that it would become a TV spectacular, a circus?

SENATOR SCOTT: Those are my words about TV spectaculars. I was indulging in a little color here. (Laughter)

There is nothing which the White House has any wish to conceal. There is nothing to conceal. We must maintain the separation of powers as Senator Ervin has so ably argued before the Supreme Court.



Q How do you tell the truth of an answer on a piece of paper?

SENATOR SCOTT: I don't know. How do you do it? It is a question of how it is done anywhere in human relations.

Q Usually if I get a piece of paper I am doubtful about the truth. I try to ask the author some questions.

SENATOR SCOTT: That is what you would be permitted to do here, if you were doing a Congressional investigation. You would send a letter and say, "I want the truth."

Q The President said he would provide information to questions that were pertinent. Who will be the judge of what is pertinent? Has that been discussed?

SENATOR SCOTT: You would apply the principle of separation of powers, whether it applies in that instance, whether it involves confidentiality. After all, you are talking about the President's lawyer and I said to you before that the President has the same right to have a lawyer that I do, or you do, or anyone else and he has the same right to confidentiality of sources that the press are urging now on the Congress.

Q Senator, President Eisenhower made Sherman Adams available under somewhat similar circumstances. What distinction do you make between Mr. Adams and Mr. Dean?

SENATOR SCOTT: I don't accept the similarity. I was in Congress at the time, a friend of Mr. Adams, I still am, I have still a very high regard for Sherman Adams, but I was being charged with matters that pertained to him personally and what he had done personally, which was alleged to be a conflict of interest.

There is no charge here of that kind against a counsel to the President, for example.

Q Isn't there a conflict of interest in the sense that it is a question of Mr. Dean's relationship to Mr. Liddy?

SENATOR SCOTT: I think that has been answered a number of times. I don't accept the conflict of interest there. You can argue it, but I wouldn't accept it.

Q Senator, is it your view, and this does not refer to Mr. Dean at all, that if the Congressional committee wanted to question a White House staffer about a matter of personal impropriety or wrongdoing, that it could, that Executive privilege could not be invoked in that kind of situation?

SENATOR SCOTT: That would depend. You would have to state an exact situation, and then the White House would have to determine whether or not it does or does not involve the question of separation of powers.



Q Is it entirely up to the White House to determine that?

SENATOR SCOTT: It is entirely up to the White House, up to the President to determine what is within the confidentiality of communications, what is within the separation of powers. He must make that decision just as the Congress did, through Senator Ervin, make the same decision in the Gravel case pertaining to a member of his staff.

MR. ZIEGLER: Thank you very much, gentlemen.

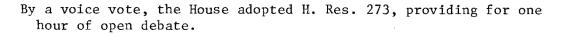
THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 11:15 A.M. EST)

Tuesday, March 13, 1973

OLDER AMERICANS

RULE



PASSAGE

By a record vote of 329 yeas to 69 nays, the House passed H.R. 71, to strengthen and improve the Older Americans Act of 1965. (GRF - Nay Speaker - NV)

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	NV	<u>Total</u>
Rep.	111	66	14	191
Demo.	218	3	<u> 19</u>	_240_
	329	69	33	431

Subsequently, this passage was vacated, and S. 50, a similar Senate-passed bill was passed in lieu after being amended to contain the language of the House bill as passed.

Prior to final passage of H.R. 71, by a record teller vote of 168 ayes to 229 noes, the House rejected an amendment by Mr. Landgrebe in the form of a substitute to the committee substitute that embodied the text of H.R. 4318. (GRF - Yea; Speaker - NV)

	<u>Yea</u>	Nay	NV	<u>Total</u>
Rep.	130	48	13	191
Demo.	_38	181	<u>21</u>	<u>240</u>
	168	229	34	431

Wednesday, March 14, 1973

RULES OF EVIDENCE

RULE

By a voice vote, the House adopted H. Res. 294, providing for one hour of open debate.

PASSAGE

By a record vote of 399 yeas to 1 nay (Froehlich - Wis.), the House passed S. 583, to promote the separation of constitutional powers

(continued on next page)

Wednesday, March 14, 1973 (cont'd)

RULES OF EVIDENCE (cont'd)

PASSAGE (repeat)

By a record vote of 399 yeas to 1 nay (Froehlich - Wis:), the House passed S. 583, to promote the separation of constitutional powers by securing the Rules of Evidence for U.S. Courts and Magistrates, the Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure which the Supreme Court on November 20, 1972, ordered the Chief Justice to transmit to the Congress. (GRF - Yea; Speaker - NV)

	<u>Yea</u>	Nay	NV	<u>Total</u>
Rep.	177	1	14	192
Demo.	<u>222</u>	<u>0</u>	$\frac{18}{32}$	<u>240</u>
	399	1	32	432

SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

The House disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 4278, to amend the National School Lunch Act to assure that Federal financial assistance to the child nutrition programs is maintained at the level budgeted for fiscal year 1973, and asked a conference with the Senate. Appointed as conferees: Representatives Perkins, Meeds, Mink, Hawkins, Lehman, Andrews of North Carolina, Quie, Bell, Ashbrook, and Forsythe.

Thursday, March 15, 1973

SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 4278, to amend the National School Lunch Act to assure that Federal financial assistance to the child nutrition programs is maintained at the level budgeted for fiscal year 1973, clearing the measure for the White House.

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES

The House agreed to H. Res. 279, to create a special committee to investigate campaign expenditures. Subsequently, the Speaker appointed Representatives Smith of Iowa, Leggett, Long of Louisiana, Dickinson, and Devine to serve as members of the committee.

PUBLIC WORKS--ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RULE

By a voice vote, the House adopted H. Res. 295, providing for one hour of open debate.

(MORE)

Thursday, March 15, 1973 (continued)

PUBLIC WORKS--ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont'd)



PASSAGE

By a record vote of 278 yeas to 108 nays, the House passed H.R. 2246, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to extend the authorizations for a 1-year period. (GRF - Nay: Speaker - NV)

	<u>Yea</u>	Nay	NV	<u>Total</u>
Rep.	71	97	24	192
Demo.	207	_11	22	<u>240</u>
	278	108	46	432

RECOMMIT

By a voice vote, the House rejected a motion by Mr. Grover to recommit the bill to the Committee on Public Works.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ACT

The House agreed to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to S. 7, to amend the Vocational Rehabilitation Act to extend and revise the authorization of grants to States for vocational rehabilitation services, to authorize grants for rehabilitation services to those with severe disabilities, clearing the measure for the President.

Monday, March 19, 1972

NO LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

PROGRAM AHEAD

Tuesday, March 20, 1973

PRIVATE CALENDAR (No Bills)
SUSPENSIONS (No Bills)
Nineteen Committee Funding Resolutions from the House Administration
Committee

Wednesday, March 21, 1973

H.R. 5446 - Solid Waste Disposal Act (SUBJECT TO A RULE BEING GRANTED)

Thursday, March 22, 1973

Five Committee Funding Resolutions from the House Administration Committee

H.R. 5445 - Clean Air Act
(SUBJECT TO A RULE BEING GRANTED)



CONGRESSIONAL STATUS OF VETO-BAIT BILLS

SENATE	BILLS	HOUSE
S. 50 - Passed 2/20/73 Y-82 N- 9	Older Americans Act	H.R. 71 - Passed 3/13/73 Y-329 N- 69 (S. 50 passed in lieu of H.R. 71)
S.	Research on Aging	H.R. 65 - Hearings concluded by Sub- committee on Public Health & Environment (Interstate & Foreign Commerce) 3 days of mark-up scheduled this week
S. 467 - Pending before Public Works Committee	Public Works & EDA Amendments	H.R. 2246 - Passed 3/15/73 Y-278 N-108
S. 263 - Pending before Interior Committee	Amendments to Mining & Mineral Policy	H.R. 5079 - (Saylor) - Pending before Interior Committee
S. 38 - Passed 2/5/73 Y-65 N-15	Airport Development	H.R. 4082 - Committee on Interstate & Foreign Commerce continue hearings March 20.
S. 39 - Passed 2/21/73 Y-89	Anti-Hijacking	H.R. 3858 - Hearings concluded by Committee on Interstate & Foreign Commerce
S. 606 - Passed 2/1/73 Y-67 N-14	Flood Control	H.R. 4904 & H.R. 4905 - Committee on Public Works. Briefing by Gen. Clark on 3/8/73. Hearings postponed until after recess.
S. 49 - Passed 3/6/73 Y-85 N- 4	National Cemetery Act	H.R. 2828 - Pending before Committee on Veterans Affairs.

by Committee on Public

Works - to continue all week. No bill number yet.

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SENATE (70833)	BILLS	HOUSE
S. 59 - Passed 3/6/73 Y-86 N- 2	Veterans Health Care	H.R. 2900 - Pending before Committee on Veterans Affairs. Subcommittee hearings scheduled to begin 3/22.
S. 7 - Passed 2/28/73 Y-86 N- 2 3/15/73 - Senate agreed to House amend- ment with an amendment.	Vocational Rehabilitation	H.R. 71 - Passed 3/8/73 Y-318 N- 57 (Landgrebe Substitute: Y-166; N-213) S. 7 - Passed 3/15/73 House agreed to Senate amendment to House amendment.
H.R. 2107 - Passed 3/1/73 Y-71 N-10	REAP	H.R. 2107 - Passed 2/7/73 Y-251 N-142
S. 394 - Passed 2/21/73 Y-69 N-20	REA Extension	H.R. 2276 - Committee on Agriculture rejected (23-12) Adminis- tration version of compro- mise bill. Will consider Denholm bill on 3/20/73.
H.R. 3298 - Committee on Agriculture - ordered reported.	Rural Water and Sewer	H.R. 3298 - Passed 3/1/73 Y-297 N- 54
S. 14 (Kennedy Bill) Before Labor & Public Welfare Committee	Health Maintenance Organizations	 H.R. 4871 (Staggers & Devine) & H.R. 51 (Dr. Roy) Subcommittee hearings concluded - Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee. 3 day markup scheduled for this week
S. 502 - Passed 3/15/73	Highway Act Amendments	H.R Hearings began March 19

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Gerall R. Ford

White House Leadership Meeting Juesday, March 20, 1973