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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

November 20, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRANK G. ZARB *M*
THROUGH: ROGERS C. B. MORTON
SUBJECT: COAL STRIKE STATUS REPORT

H/K
Closehold
but handy
M

The Labor Situation

- . The UMW Bargaining Committee has not been able to approve the tentative agreement for ratification. Tonight Miller was ordered back to the bargaining table to reopen negotiations for what the union is calling "minor adjustments". The issues seem to be based as much on internal political problems as they are with substance. Miller has lost some control of his union but the situation is not out of control.
- . Usery will resume working with both sides tomorrow morning (Thursday) in an effort to put an agreement back together.

Economic Impact

- . At the end of the first week, unemployment directly due to the strike is estimated at 126,000 including union (110,000) and non-union (2,000) miners, railroad (4,000) and steel workers (10,000). By the end of next week the total could reach 160,000.
- . Current stock levels of major coal users (utilities, coke and steel plants, other industrial and commercial) generally exceed 30 day supply. Spot shortages will begin appearing next week.

Next Steps

- . Usery will try a series of moves to get both parties together and resolve the new problems.
- * Usery, Justice, Treasury and Labor agree that Monday, December 2 is the trigger date for implementation of Taft-Hartley if satisfactory progress is not made toward full agreement.
- . A draft Presidential statement and appropriate questions and answers are being prepared and will be transmitted tomorrow (Thursday).
- . A State-Federal program for meeting emergency situations has already been implemented and will be augmented as required.

