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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENT'S MEETING

WITH THE COUNCIL ON THE AGING,

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1975

- 1 -

I. I'M HAPPY TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING. AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE MONTH OF MAY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH TO CALL THE NATION'S ATTENTION TO BOTH THE CONCERNS FACING OLDER AMERICANS TODAY AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH OLDER AMERICANS HAVE MADE TO OUR SOCIETY OVER THE YEARS.

2. YOUR MISSION, AS ADVOCATES FOR THIS VERY IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF OUR POPULATION, IS GROWING IN SIGNIFICANCE ALL THE TIME. ALTHOUGH THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN OPERATING ONLY ABOUT A YEAR, YOU'VE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED YOUR EFFECTIVENESS. I COMPLIMENT YOU FOR THE GROUNDWORK YOU HAVE LAID.

3. MY CONCERN FOR OLDER AMERICANS IS TWO-FOLD. FIRST, I WANT TO MAKE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE USE OF THE RESOURCES OF OLDER AMERICANS IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THAT ALL AMERICANS SHARE IN COMMON.

AND SECOND, I WANT TO DO ALL THAT I POSSIBLY CAN FOR THOSE OLDER AMERICANS WHO, BECAUSE OF VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUIRE OUR ASSISTANCE IN MEETING THEIR BASIC NEEDS -- FOR FOOD, HOUSING, MEDICAL CARE AND SO FORTH.

4. I'VE PROPOSED AN EXPENDITURE IN EACH OF THE NEXT
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TWO FISCAL YEARS OF TWO HUNDRED AND SIX MILLION DOLLARS FOR
PROGRAMS CONDUCTED UNDER THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT. THIS,
OF COURSE, IS IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY,
MEDICARE, AND OTHER SUCH PROGRAMS.

5. ALTHOUGH I AM WELL AWARE THAT YOU HAD
RECOMMENDED A HIGHER LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR THE OLDER AMERICANS
ACT PROGRAMS -- A RECOMMENDATION WHOSE OBJECTIVES I SHARE,
I MIGHT NOTE -- I AM SEEKING ANOTHER ROUTE -- ONE WHICH I
BELIEVE WILL HELP OUR SENIOR AMERICANS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE
IN THIS REGARD:

THE RESTORATION OF A SOUND ECONOMY. AND, AS YOU KNOW,
THAT REQUIRES SOME "BELT-TIGHTENING."

6. AS I'VE STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, INCLUDING MY BUDGET MESSAGE THIS YEAR TO THE CONGRESS, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT POSSIBLE REFORMS OF OUR WELFARE SYSTEM AND OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM -- WITH THE NEEDS OF OLDER AMERICANS PARTICULARLY IN MIND.

AT THE SAME TIME, I HAVE DIRECTED THE WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC COUNCIL TO PREPARE PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE ADDITIONAL FINANCING NEEDS OF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM -- TO INSURE THAT THE PROGRAM WILL WORK WELL -- OR BETTER -- IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AS IT HAS DONE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

THE SYSTEM IS FINANCIALLY SECURE NOW -- THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT, AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE IT STAYS THAT WAY.

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7. LET ME THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE WORK YOU'VE DONE AND FOR THE WORK AHEAD OF YOU YET TO BE COMPLETED ON BEHALF OF AMERICA'S OLDER CITIZENS. I APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS. I KNOW THESE AMERICANS TO WHOM WE OWE SO MUCH APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING FOR THEM.

END OF POINTS

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *PAT*
SUBJECT: Talking points for the President's meeting
with the Federal Council on the Aging

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: _____

12:15 p.m., Friday, May 16, Cabinet Room

SPEECHWRITER: Butler

EDITED BY: Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Ted Marr's office, Pam Needham's office

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