I thank each of you for coming to this first meeting to plan this year's Government-wide Combined Federal Campaign.

The theme of the National Capital area's campaign -- the "Spirit of '76" -- is most appropriate. The spirit of sharing with others in need is basic to our way of life in this country and in this area.

During its 12 years of existence, the Combined Federal Campaign has achieved an enviable record. Federal employees have shown their willingness to give their share -- and more -- to help others less fortunate. I commend them for this selfless attitude.

This year's goal is 9.5 million dollars. Last year, Federal employee contributions exceeded the 1974 goal by more than 300,000 dollars.

As you know, the theme of the nationwide United Fund campaign is, "Thanks to you, it's working." Thanks to those of you here today -- and
to hundreds of thousands of Federal employees -- I am confident the
Combined Federal Campaign will work this year, as it has in the past --
and work even better.

Altogether, 120 service and charitable agencies of the United Fund,
11 national health agencies and six international service agencies will share
in the money raised by this combined campaign in the Washington area.

I have asked Federal Energy Administrator Frank Zarb to direct the
campaign this year. He will work closely with each of you and with the
heads of all Federal agencies in the coming weeks to reach and, hopefully,
to exceed our goal.

As you are aware, the contributions of a Federal employee can be
made in two ways -- by a personal check or checks to cover funds pledged
or by a payroll deduction pledge card under which a portion of salary would
be taken out of each paycheck.
I am pleased and honored to join in the kick-off of this year's campaign by presenting to Frank Zarb my personal check for my entire pledge.

Frank, under your direction, I am confident this will be the most successful campaign in CFC history.

I know each of you will work closely with Frank to make this year's campaign the best ever. Now, I'd like to ask Frank to talk with you for a few minutes about the campaign and about his plans. Thank you.

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