

The original documents are located in Box 22, “1/21/76 - Talking Points: Sub-Cabinet Budget Briefing (Includes draft)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TALKING POINTS:

SUB-CABINET BUDGET BRIEFING

JANUARY 21, 1976

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THANK YOU, MR. VICE PRESIDENT.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME MEMBERS OF THE
"SUB-CABINET" TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON.

I'LL BE WELCOMING YOUR WIVES AND HUSBANDS HERE ON FRIDAY
MORNING WHEN I'LL DO MY BEST TO EXPLAIN TO THEM WHY YOU'VE
BEEN STAYING AT THE OFFICE SO MUCH IN RECENT WEEKS. ● ● ● ● ●

I HOPE YOU'VE ALL BEEN WORKING ON THE BUDGET. ●

BEFORE WE PROCEED TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND,

LET ME SAY A WORD OF THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR THE VERY

GOOD JOB YOU ARE DOING AS LEADERS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.●

WE HAVE ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED AND MOST
ACTIVE CABINETS -- AND SUB-CABINETS -- IN RECENT HISTORY●

YOU ARE PLAYING A VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN HELPING ME
CREATE AND IMPLEMENT SOUND POLICIES FOR PROGRESS FOR THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND I THANK YOU FOR IT●

IN MY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS MONDAY NIGHT,

I SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR MORE COMMON SENSE, A NEW REALISM,

A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY AND PRIVATE

EFFORTS. THESE ARE NOT JUST SLOGANS FOR AN ELECTION YEAR --

THEY ARE THE UNDERLYING THEMES AND COMMITMENTS OF THIS

ADMINISTRATION, AND THEY ARE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR THIS

NATION'S SUCCESS IN ITS THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS COMMON SENSE

APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT IS THE REALIZATION THAT WE DO NOT HAVE

THE RESOURCES TO IMMEDIATELY SOLVE EVERY ONE OF THE NATION'S

PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVE ALL OF OUR AMBITIOUS AND WELL-INTENTIONED

GOALS.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO HOLDING DOWN THE GROWTH
OF FEDERAL SPENDING.

OUR BUDGET THIS YEAR REFLECTS THAT COMMITMENT
ON EVERY PAGE. NO DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY HAS BEEN
EXCEPTED, AND NONE HAS BEEN CALLED UPON TO BEAR AN
UNFAIR SHARE OF THE BURDEN.

A handwritten hash symbol (#) consisting of two vertical lines and two horizontal lines intersecting to form a grid.

OUR FISCAL YEAR 1977 BUDGET - - -

* * * SETS A COURSE THAT SHOULD PUT THE

THE 1979 BUDGET IN BALANCE.

* * * PERMITS AND ENCOURAGES REAL, STEADY

ECONOMIC GROWTH.

* * * ARRESTS THE RAPID GROWTH IN FEDERAL SPENDING●

THE RATE OF GROWTH PROPOSED IS 5.5 PERCENT, LESS THAN HALF

THE AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF LAST TEN YEARS●

* * * STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE

WHO PAY TAXES AND THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM FEDERAL SPENDING●

* * * PROPOSES TAX CUTS FOR INDIVIDUALS,

TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT AND ^{GROWTH} ~~RESEARCH~~.

* * * GIVES HIGH PRIORITY TO ENERGY RESEARCH

AND DEVELOPMENT. A RECORD RESEARCH BUDGET OVERALL.

* * * STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN

NATIONAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND SOCIAL NEEDS.

* * * STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN

FEDERAL CONTROL AND STATE-LOCAL AUTHORITY.

CONSOLIDATES SOME FEDERAL PROGRAMS, REPLACES OTHERS

WITH BLOCK GRANTS.

*Education
Health
Child Nutrition
Social Services*

CONCLUSION

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OUR GOAL IS TO RESTORE THE TRULY FEDERAL SYSTEM

WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS ENVISIONED AND ESTABLISHED IN THE

CONSTITUTION. WE HOPE TO GIVE MORE RESPONSIBILITY

AND AUTHORITY BACK TO THE STATES AND THEIR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

WE DO NOT WANT TO DISMANTLE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT --

WE WANT TO MAKE IT WORK BETTER, MORE EFFICIENTLY,

AND MORE EFFECTIVELY.

IT MAY BE A REVOLUTIONARY IDEA FOR A PRESIDENT --
OR ANY POLITICIAN -- TO PROMISE PEOPLE THAT HE WON'T DO
SOMETHING FOR THEM, BUT IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR,
IT IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME●

I AM COUNTING ON EACH ONE OF YOU TO HELP ME
IN THIS EFFORT. WE MUST SELL OUR PROGRAM TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE AND TO THE CONGRESS. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL,
I AM CONFIDENT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL RESPOND IN A POSITIVE
WAY, AND WE CAN WRITE AN IMPORTANT NEW CHAPTER IN THE
HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY. WE CAN POINT THE WAY TOWARDS
A MORE PROSPEROUS AND SECURE FUTURE FOR MANY GENERATIONS
OF AMERICANS TO COME.

THANK YOU FOR COMING●

THANK YOU FOR ALL

YOU HAVE DONE●

END OF TEXT

(Butler)

January 20, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TALKING POINTS: SUB-CABINET BUDGET BRIEFING, JANUARY 21

It is a pleasure to welcome members of the "Sub-Cabinet" to the White House this afternoon. I'll be welcoming your wives and husbands here on Friday morning when I'll do my best to explain to them why you've been staying at the office so much in recent weeks -- I hope you've all been working on the budget.

Before we proceed to the business at hand, let me say a word of thanks to each of you for the very good job you are doing as leaders of this Administration. With a government establishment as big as ours, it is literally impossible for any one man to exercise effective control and guidance over every single area of activity.

For that reason, I have done my very best to assemble an outstanding leadership team -- and I have succeeded. We have one of the most distinguished and most active Cabinets -- and sub-Cabinets -- in

recent history. You are playing a very significant role in helping me create and implement sound policies for progress for the American people, and I thank you for it.

In my State of the Union address Monday night, I spoke of the need for more common sense, a new realism, a better balance between government activity and private efforts. These are not just slogans for an election year -- they are the underlying themes for this Administration and they are necessary ingredients for this Nation's success in its third century of independence.

The most important immediate aspect of this common sense approach to the government is the realization that we do not have the resources to singlehandedly solve every one of the Nation's problems and achieve all of our ambitious and well-intentioned goals.

Our commitment to hold down the growth of Federal spending is based on the knowledge that if we spend ourselves into insolvency,

no one will benefit and everyone in this country will be in serious, serious trouble.

Our budget this year reflects that commitment on every page. No department or agency has been excepted, and none has been called upon to bear an unfair share of the burden.

We have a budget that will ensure a strong and ready national defense. At the same time, it will meet the legitimate social and economic needs of 215 million Americans. It is a budget that can help us travel much further on the road to economic recovery and real prosperity -- not just the illusion of prosperity which is inflation's favorite and most dangerous disguise.

It is my hope that this fiscal 1977 budget will represent a turning point -- a very important turning point -- in the history of this Federal government.

Our goal is to restore the truly Federal system which our forefathers envisioned and established in the Constitution. We hope to give more responsibility and authority back to the States and their local governments. We do not want to dismantle the Federal Government -- we want to make it work better, more efficiently, and more effectively.

It may be a revolutionary idea for a President -- or any politician -- to promise people that he won't do something for them, but in this Bicentennial year, it is an idea whose time has come.

I am counting on each of one of you to help me in that effort. We must sell our program to the American people and to the Congress. If we are successful, I am confident the American people will respond in a positive way, and we can write an important new chapter in the history of this country and point the way toward a prosperous and secure future for many generations of Americans to come.

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