

**The original documents are located in Box 22, “1/23/76 - Remarks at Meeting of Spouses of Key Administrative Personnel Who Formulated the FY 77 Budget” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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**THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....**

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS**

**BRIEFING FOR SPOUSES**

**JANUARY 23, 1976**

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IT IS A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR BETTY AND  
ME TO WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING.●

I OWE A VERY GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO EACH OF YOU  
FOR THE PART YOU HAVE PLAYED IN THE SUCCESS OF THIS  
ADMINISTRATION.●

I KNOW THE SACRIFICES YOU MAKE SO OFTEN,  
SO THAT YOUR HUSBANDS AND WIVES CAN DO THE JOB THEY  
DO SO WELL FOR THEIR COUNTRY●

WE ARE LIVING AT A CRITICAL POINT IN AMERICA'S  
HISTORY. WHILE WE CELEBRATE OUR BICENTENNIAL, WE ARE  
PREPARING ALSO FOR AMERICA'S THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE.  
THE WORLD IS IN A STATE OF TRANSITION.

THERE ARE STILL A GREAT MANY TENSIONS IN THE WORLD WHICH

WE ARE SEEKING TO RELAX AND REDUCE. HERE AT HOME,

THERE IS MUCH THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE OUR QUALITY

OF LIFE IN AMERICA.

THE WORK YOUR HUSBANDS AND WIVES ARE DOING IS

IMPORTANT WORK. IT IS DEMANDING WORK. IT IS

TIME-CONSUMING WORK. SOMETIMES, IT IS FRUSTRATING WORK,

AND I KNOW YOU GET PLENTY FRUSTRATED, TOO, WITH ALL THE

RUINED DINNERS AND WEEKEND PLANS THAT FALL THROUGH/AND

THE FAMILY TIME THAT'S DENIED FAR TOO OFTEN.

BETTY AND I HAVE HAD 27 YEARS OF THAT KIND OF ROUTINE, SO  
WE CAN SPEAK WITH SOME EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE ON THE  
SUBJECT.

WE KNOW IT'S TOUGH. BUT I THINK OVERALL YOU  
SHOULD TAKE TREMENDOUS SATISFACTION IN KNOWING THAT WHAT  
YOUR SPOUSES DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THIS COUNTRY.



TAKE THE BUDGET, FOR EXAMPLE. I HAVE DESCRIBED  
THIS BUDGET AS A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THAT MAY SOUND LIKE A RATHER BOLD  
CLAIM, BUT LET ME JUST TELL YOU WHAT WE HAVE DONE WITH THE  
BUDGET YOUR HUSBANDS AND WIVES WORKED SO HARD TO HELP  
US PREPARE.

THE 1977 BUDGET:

\* \* \* SETS A COURSE THAT SHOULD PUT THE 1979

BUDGET IN BALANCE●

\* \* \* IT ARRESTS THE RAPID GROWTH IN FEDERAL

SPENDING● THE RATE OF GROWTH PROPOSED IS 5.5 PERCENT,

LESS THAN HALF THE AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF THE LAST TEN YEARS●

\* \* \* THE BUDGET STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN  
THOSE WHO PAY TAXES AND THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM FEDERAL  
SPENDING●

\* \* \* IT GIVES HIGH PRIORITY TO ENERGY RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT, WITH A RECORD RESEARCH BUDGET OVERALL●  
OUR EMPHASIS IS ON THE FUTURE, AND WITH THIS BUDGET,  
WE'RE MAKING A MAJOR INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE●

\* \* \* THIS BUDGET ALSO CONTINUES OUR COMMITMENT  
TO A BETTER ENVIRONMENT WHICH OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR  
CHILDREN CAN ENJOY AND APPRECIATE●

\* \* \* THE NEW BUDGET STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE  
BETWEEN NATIONAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS AND SOCIAL NEEDS●

\* \* \* IT STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN FEDERAL

CONTROL AND STATE-LOCAL AUTHORITY. IT CONSOLIDATES

SOME FEDERAL PROGRAMS, AND REPLACES OTHERS WITH

BLOCK GRANTS.

AS PRESIDENT, THE FINAL DECISION ON ALL OF THESE  
POLICY AREAS WAS MINE TO MAKE. BUT YOUR HUSBANDS AND  
WIVES DID AN ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT JOB OF PRESENTING  
ME WITH ALL THE FACTS, ALL THE OPTIONS, ALL THE CONSTRUCTIVE  
SUGGESTIONS A PRESIDENT COULD POSSIBLY HOPE TO RECEIVE.

THE DECISIONS, IN MANY INSTANCES, WERE TOUGH  
ONES, BECAUSE I HAD SUCH TALENTED AND COMMITTED PEOPLE  
ARGUING BOTH SIDES OF EVERY QUESTION.

BUT I THINK THE FINAL PRODUCT IS THE RIGHT ONE,  
ONE WE CAN DEFEND IN THE CONGRESS, ONE THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE CAN AND WILL SUPPORT.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING,  
YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR INTEREST -- ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL  
OF DUTY -- IN COMING TO BE PART OF THIS BRIEFING TODAY●

END OF TEXT