The original documents are located in Box 22, “1/23/76 - Remarks Regarding FY77 Budget Addressed to Representatives of Groups in Social Services, the Consumer Movement, Women's Organizations, Ethnic Identification Programs, and Others” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN...

TALKING POINTS

SOCIAL SERVICE GROUPS BUDGET PRESENTATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1976
IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON.

I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES HERE

FROM A VARIETY OF GROUPS ENGAGED IN SOCIAL SERVICES,

THE CONSUMER MOVEMENT, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS,

ETHNIC IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMS AND OTHERS.
YOU REPRESENT THE MOST BROADLY-BASED AUDIENCE

WE'VE INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE SO FAR TO DISCUSS

THE 1977 BUDGET. AND YOU ARE VERY, VERY WELCOME HERE.

AS I SAID IN MY STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

MONDAY NIGHT, THIS YEAR'S BUDGET REFLECTS A COMMON-SENSE,

REALISTIC APPROACH TO WHAT WE BELIEVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CAN DO IN THE AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
THE BUDGET REPRESENTS A TURNING POINT IN THE COURSE

THIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FOLLOWING IN RECENT YEARS.

WE ARE NOT TURNING AWAY FROM THE SOCIAL PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE AND WILL MAKE, BUT WE ARE MOVING FORWARD IN A NEW DIRECTION. WE HAVE NOW CHARTED A COURSE THAT WILL ENABLE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BETTER SERVE THOSE WHO MOST NEED OUR ASSISTANCE.
AS I SAID WHEN I SIGNED THE BUDGET ON WEDNESDAY,

THIS BUDGET DOES NOT HOLD OUT ANY FALSE PROMISE

THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL IMMEDIATELY SOLVE EVERY

PROBLEM AND REALIZE EVERY AMBITION AND WELL-INTENTIONED GOAL

OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
IT IS A DISSERVICE TO THE DISADVANTAGED OF OUR SOCIETY TO PROMISE THEM MORE THAN WE CAN DELIVER, JUST AS IT IS A DISSERVICE TO HELP THEM LESS THAN WE ARE ABLE TO DO. THIS IS WHAT I MEAN BY STRIKING A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE AND ITS PERFORMANCE.
THE BUDGET TAKES INTO ACCOUNT MY PROPOSAL

FOR AN ADDITIONAL TEN BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT FOR INDIVIDUALS --

BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 28 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR.
THE 1977 BUDGET ALSO:

*** 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.

AMONG THOSE NEEDS IS A BETTER SYSTEM OF HEALTH CARE --

A SYSTEM THAT WILL PROTECT THREE MILLION AMERICANS A YEAR

FROM THE ECONOMIC RAVAGES OF CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS.
IT STRIKES A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN FEDERAL CONTROL AND STATE-LOCAL AUTHORITY. IT CONSOLIDATES SOME FEDERAL PROGRAMS, AND REPLACES OTHERS WITH BLOCK GRANTS.
AS YOU CAN SEE, HARD CHOICES HAD TO BE MADE, AND WE HAVE MADE THEM IN THIS BUDGET. WE MADE THEM SO THAT MORE AMERICANS COULD SHARE IN THE BOUNTY OF THIS LAND, WITHOUT HAVING TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF RISING INFLATION.
OVER THE LAST YEAR, WE HAVE TURNED THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AROUND IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION -- IN THE DIRECTION OF PROGRESS AND INCREASING, REAL PROSPERITY.

THIS BUDGET WILL HELP US MAINTAIN THAT MOMENTUM,

SO THAT EVERY AMERICAN -- REGARDLESS OF RACE OR SEX OR AGE OR STATION IN LIFE -- CAN LIVE A BETTER, MORE ABUNDANT LIFE.
THAT, AFTER ALL, IS WHAT EACH OF YOU WANTS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, AND THAT IS WHAT I WILL TRY TO ACHIEVE AS YOUR PRESIDENT.

I THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR COMING TODAY.

END OF TEXT