

**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.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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

**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