### The original documents are located in Box 8, folder "Economic Address, 10/8/74" of the Ron Nessen Papers 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. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

HERIOTEVETTA TO THE MATERIAL T

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 26, 1974

Brubin Book Din I Tell about Volenotor Wage & Price Guerre

MEMORANDUM FOR:

WILLIAM SEIDMAN

FROM:

PAUL THEIS

SUBJECT:

Inflation Fighter Program

To supplement other initiatives against inflation which the Economic Summit will come up with, these steps are suggested to bring the public and business and industry and labor into the effort:

- 1. As part of the President's post-Summit report to the nation, he announce the establishment of the "Inflation Fighter" program. Under this program, each manufacturing company which signs a pledge not to raise prices on its products for six months would be awarded an "IF" pennant to fly over its plant (similar to the Army-Navy "E" flags which the Government presented during World War II to companies which boosted their production). Included would be a pledge to purchase supplies wherever possible only from participating firms. Companies which sign this pledge would have the right to mark their products with the "IF" symbol.
- 2. Retail stores, service firms and other outlets dealing with the public which pledge not to raise prices for six months would be awarded "IF" decals to display on their store windows or vehicles. Included would be a pledge to purchase wherever possible from suppliers who also have pledged a no-price-rise policy.
- 3. Consumers would be called upon by the President to patronize stores which display the "IF" symbol and to buy products with the "IF" label on them. At the same time, "IF" decals similar to those displayed in stores could be distributed to each home in America through the Postal Service, with an accompanying note from the President asking the householders to join the battle as "Inflation Fighters" by placing the decals in their windows.

- 6 -

- 4. To help launch the program properly, the President should initially visit a number of participating plants to personally present "IF" pennants at appropriate ceremonies. He could also pass out small "I" lapel buttons for workers at these plants to wear, indicating their participation in the program. He should visit participating retail chains and similiar firms to personally present window decals.
- 5. Labor unions should be asked to join the campaign, pledging not to seek wage increases for six months, and those which sign up would similarly recognized by the President with "IF" awards. He should early-on invite key union leaders who cooperate to the White House for personal presentations. Afterall, the incentive to unions to join the campaign are basic: An end to an inflation rate of 12 percent a year is tantamount to a pay boost of that amount for workers.
- 6. As part of the President's televised speech, he should also announce that he has directed the procurement agencies of the Federal government, which is the single biggest buyer in the country, to make purchases wherever possible only from "IF" companies.
- 7. The President should also announce that the thrust of the IF program will be at the local level, through state and local IF committees, which he will urge the governors and mayors and county executives to establish in their areas. One followup: "Inflation Fighter of the Month" awards can be set up by these local committees to single out plants and/or stores for exceptional efforts in holding down prices or even reducing them.
- 8. To help companies hold the price-line and boost their productivity at the same time, the President may want to announce that he will ask Congress for tax legislation to accomplish these purposes. For instance: Employees who contribute free production time above normal work-hours to their employers could have their gross earnings reduced for Federal income tax purposes by an amount equal to the number of hours contributed times their straight-time earnings rate. Later, companies which reduce prices on their products could be provided with tax breaks.

7.7.7 Sains

<sup>9.</sup> To make this plan work, the Federal government must tighten its belt as well. As a starter, the President could announce he will cut the White House staff by 10 percent. Other economies could be outlined in the next budget. The President could bring Congress into the act by presenting "IF" lapel buttons to those members who cooperate in holding down Federal spending.

■10. Although this program would be set up for six months to start, the President at the end of that period can announce the results -- hopefully, a sharp cut in the rising inflation rate by then and near-stability of prices -- and call on the country to continue the effort for another six months. Manufacturers which sign a pledge not to raise prices for another six months would be awarded a silver star to add to the "IF" pennant which already flies over their plants and retailers would receive a silver star to paste above the "IF" decal in their windows.

Two final points: Since this program is voluntary, it would depend upon the public and local IF committees largely for enforcement. It would require no vast new Federal bureaucracy to administer.

If properly promoted, with ample groundwork laid before the President's announcement, the IF program could capture the imagination of the American people and slow inflation in its tracks. If the President decides to go ahead with this, I have prepared a follow-up memo outlining the 20 steps which I think should be taken prior to his announcement (for instance, calling in the heads of the top 10 companies in the country for private advance briefings and a request for support on the program, meetings with key labor leaders such as George Meany to seek cooperation, conferences with chief editorial writers of leading newspapers and with major columnists to elicit backing, preparation of letters over the President's name to governors outlining the program and calling on them to establish state and local IF communittees to help implement the program, etc.)

In sum, the incentives to participate in this program cut across America:

For the consuming public -- stablized prices in the marketplace.

For the businessman -- acceptance by the public of his firm as a combatant in the war on inflation and increased salability of his products as a result.

For the worker -- not only lower prices in the marketplace (which is another form of pay increase) but possible tax benefits for his help in boosting productivity.

For all Americans -- knowledge that they are participating in a program which will make this nation a better place for them and their children.

Not in Class. We do Prave some Good deminos. Teal's net Ouor. It's indicative of the lord clow, we save to and the American people hove to mare as we lite the bullet on cerbing inflation " Strong Public Participation.

3 acras = Inflacon, energy, ex romic stagnation, · Food & onergy = Main causes of inblator Regume Raibeaut 15elf- Lemplene. Savifice # By put neluster, Consumers & gout. Some Speal writers up all nile 1976- under control. Votal jaulrege = Must be passed as a whole De Con to puls Core Jol. I challenge segone To do a lutter de.

CONFIDENCIAL Ceronomin Proporale Redgird enbouement of antitrust laws, Inverse Maximin Gine (& \$500,000 x a Myn) in anti- trust cases. More accessible info. Priority targets for onte trust certion. Outlaw bxed bees (derton layers real estate) Elenery & Pardrage of bills to ROD on solar themis Open up Western Coal. Obb- shore drilling - tuel Souring Self- imposed dollar limit on ail imports (to encourage lowers price imports) coupled will allocation system to make Deve everyone gets enough ( Rossillo lan on Sunday gas ban, odd-even Lux soles) Together will boluntary sarrag measurer. Just for culton on Project Independence" ligislation. And call sellention to West 3 been done.

(3) Housines. Push ber lizabetion (4) (7) Gang in Regulater Deservices to inverse soving and thereby Delp Govering Infation inpart statement Mohe sure regulator agencie: . While Cause inflation and Weste feele.

Toling Brd - 3 Oct. Going to get view of Congressionel Toles leaders on Tx proposale. Con to get ween on Ruled out Gas ToA Totadquitment (higher exemptions for low-inon surtex on higher (?); surtex on corporations ) (Voluntary) 1- Individuala write to True, pledy to soin millation lught, get button, get sublation beginning edeas 2)- Valuntar corporato 3) Orangamention ( Col C etc)
ewroll in inflution Dight
get buttons, etc. Y) Litter Le every SV L depos ils Wage ? Prue Schality = "Wall day to make sure bed good and ? are not contributing to might in

Leadership meeting Outlined Rentief Askt Ash Congress to bring spendig below 300 Myn Pres to send specifics in time for lome dent Debevials (2) Recessions (3) Legislative cut in entillement programe. Most comprehensive sleidy of alternatives ever weder taken of the American government. Waldword they to Euphone Sove more, reduce Waste, produce more, Coul = Gull Employment will prime stability. vur will propose X 1 - Full again alture production × 2 - Proper use of pertilizer 3 - Eliminate restructive practices while raise boes prices. 4 - Middle men 5- Full producing in all areas 6 - Vigorous anti-trust actions 7 - Regulatar Aging V Court Polices Whil I we the effect of raining prices ("galeway") (05 HA) 8 - Inflation impail statement 9- Extend Public Service Lobs New Temporary Public Service job progrum

10 - Medicaid - Medeiare Saviers.

11- Hausery - Commie Mae, Funny

Mare bry & mordgages.

12- Steps to encourage more

sowing in 5×6's and Books.

13- Help bor small business.

14- Steps Concerning Conserva
tion als energy (Summ-"well

for Steps to encourage invienced)

energy production: I

16- Self-inject embaye on

ail (Not final)

17- Vrege Congress to approve

energy legislation abready there.

18- Voluntae programs.



Drus = Ruled out Car Tox? "Find apposed to

DICK CI NEY CALLED. MR. NESSEN ND MR. RUMSFELD SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THE PRESIDENT TOMORROW MORNING.

YOU SHOULD TELL NESSEN THIS...PER MR. CHENEY.

Hore time Oren onay orden.

file-This want beginning.

### MEETINGS AND PREPARATION TIME DEVOTED TO THE ECONOMY SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 8, 1974

| September 30 | Ash, Cole, Timmons, Scowcroft/meeting in Oval Office/4:51-5:55 p.m.   | 64 minutes  |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| October 1    | Secretary Morton/meeting in Oval Office/<br>11:20-11:45 p.m.  | 25 minutes  |
|              | Seidman, Sec. Weinberger/meeting in Oval Office/12:50-1:05 p.m.   | 15 minutes  |
|              | Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board/meeting in Cabinet Room/2:04-3:05 p.m.                                     | 61 minutes  |
| October 2    | Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board/meeting in Cabinet Room/2:15-4:15 p.m.                                     | 120 minutes |
|              | Burns/meeting in Oval Office/4:15-4:30 p.m.   | 15 minutes  |
| October 3    | Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board/meeting in Cabinet Room/1:35-3:05 p.m.                                     | 90 minutes  |
|              | Labor-Management Committee/meeting in Cabinet Room/3:35-4:35 p.m.   | 60 minutes  |
|              | Working staff of the Conference on Inflation/<br>reception in White House Mess/6:26-6:42 p.m.                               | 16 minutes  |
| October 4    | Seidman/meeting in Oval Office/8:34-8:35 a.m.   | 1 minute    |
|              | GOP Leadership/meeting in Cabinet Room to discuss options resulting from the Summit Conference on Inflation/8:35-10:07 a.m. | 92 minutes  |
|              | Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board/meeting in Cabinet Room/12:15-1:25p.m.                                     | 70 minutes  |
|              | Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board/meeting in Cabinet Room/3:37-5:03 p.m.                                     | 86 minutes  |
| October 5    | Sec. Simon, Seidman, Amb. Eberle/meeting in Oval Office/9:27-10:05; (Simon & Seidman) 9:45-10:05 (Eberle)                   | 38 minutes  |

| (continued) October 5 | Grain company officials/meeting in Cabinet Room/   |               |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| occoper 3             | 10:05-10:46 a.m.   | 41 minutes    |
|                       | Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board/meeting in Cabinet Room/11:30 a.m. to 12:21 p.m.                | 51 minutes    |
| October 6             | Sec. Simon, Seidman/meeting in Oval Office/1:10-1:13 p.m.  | 3 minutes     |
|                       | Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board/meeting in Cabinet Room/3:09-4:15 p.m.                          | 66 minutes    |
| October 7             | Seidman/meeting in Oval Office/8:00-8:06 a.m.  | 6 minutes     |
| •                     | Seidman/meeting in Oval Office/10:52-11:10 a.m.  | 18 minutes    |
| October 8             | Seidman/meeting in Oval Office/8:00-8:38 a.m.  | 38 minutes    |
|                       | Seidman, Hartmann, Rumsfeld/meeting in Oval Office/<br>12:45-2:25 (Seidman and Hartmann);1:35-2:15<br>(Rumsfeld) | 100 minutes   |
|                       | Preparation for Economic Address-as per schedule/<br>Oval Office/2:25-3:30 p.m.                                  | 65 minutes    |
|                       | Joint Session of Congress/address on the economy/ 3:43-5:00 p.m.   | 77 minutes    |
|                       | Seidman/meeting in Oval Office/5:56-6:00 p.m.  | 4 minutes     |
|                       |  | 1,222 minutes |

1,222 minutes or 20 hours, 22 minutes

### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Ron

ON CONSULTING DEMOCRATS ON ECONOMIC MESSAGE...

might say:

The President is continually consulting with all members of Congress -- Republicans and Democrats -- on the economy and his plans for it.

I might point out that the **EXMENSI**Conference on I<sub>n</sub> flation was totally a bi-partisian effort. It was a Democratic idea. The President sat there all day Friday with leaders of both parties and heard many ideas from both sides.

\*

(FYI: No meeting with Dema leadership scheduled before speech)

As a result, you may want to say nothing more on this subject today.

JACK

#### Dear President Ford:

| I enlist as an Infla    | tion Fighter and Energy  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Saver for the duration. | I will do the best I can |
| to help for americ      | a_x                      |
| /s/                     | Date                     |
| Address                 |                          |
| City Stat               | eZip                     |

## Ford's 10 Proposals

- 1. FOOD Removal of remaining acreage limitations on rice, peanuts and cotton to increase production and lower prices, with assured allocations of needed fuel and fertilizer. Council on Wage and Price Stability to expose restrictive practices that raise prices.
- 2. ENERGY Creation of a national energy board to develop a national energy policy and program under direction of Secretary of Interior Rogers C. B. Morton. Imports of foreign oil to be reduced I million barrels a day by end of 1975; all oil-fired power plants to be eliminated by 1980, and automobile gasoline effeciency to be increased 40 per cent in four years.
- 3. RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES Legislation to increase antitrust violation penalties from \$50,000 to \$1-million for corporations, and from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for individuals.
- 4. INCREASED CAPITAL SUPPLY Legislation to increase investment tax credit from the present 7 per cent for industry generally and 4 per cent for utilities to 10 per cent to stimulate industrial expansion.
- 5. INFLATION CASUALTIES Legislation to provide unemployed persons who have exhausted regular and extended unemployment benefits a further 13 weeks of benefits, and to provide 26 weeks of benefits for those not covered by unemployment insurance. Creation of a community improvement corps to provide work for the unemployed when unemployment exceeds 6 per cent nationally.
- 6. HOUSING Legislation to make more home mortgages eligible for purchase by a Federal agency. Under the present law, only Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration mortgages are eligible and they comprise only 20 per cent of total mortgages.
- 7. THRIFT INSTITUTIONS—A promise to work with Congress on measures to alleviate problems of savings and loan institutions hard hit by the increased cost of home building, high interest rates and deposit withdrawals.
- 8. INTERNATIONAL INTERDEPENDENCY Early passage of an "acceptable" trade reform bill but no specifics on what would be "acceptable."
- 9. FEDERAL TAXES Legislation imposing a oneyear, 5 per cent tax surcharge on corporate and individual incomes, with families having gross incomes under \$15,000 excluded. The estimated \$5-billion in revenue, the President said, should pay for the new programs recommended.
- 10. SPENDING If Congress agrees to his spending target of \$300-billion for the fiscal year 1975, the President will propose spending cuts and deferrals to meet the target.

#### Illustrations of the Effect of the 5 Percent Surcharge on Four Person Families

| (d                                      | ollars)  |         |  |         |         |         |         |        |            |
|---|----------|---------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|------------|
|   | :        |         | Adju                                   | sted g  | ross in | come (w | ages)   |        |            |
|   | :15,000: | 16,000: | 17,000:                                | 18,000: | 20,000: | 25,000: | 30,000: | 40,000 | 50,00      |
| Present law tax                         | 1,699    | 1,882   | 2,064                                  | 2,247   | 2,660   | 3,750   | 4,988   | 7,958  | 11(        |
| Surcharge                               | 0        | 3       | 12                                     | 21      | 42      | 97      | 158     | 307    | 48:        |
| Surcharge as percent of present tax (%) | 0        | 0.2     | 0.6                                    | 0.9     | 1.6     | 2.6     | 3.2     | 3.9    | 4.2        |
| ice of the Secretary of the Treasury    |          |         | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, |         |         | Oct     | ober 9  | , 1974 | - H- T-1-2 |

Office of Tax Analysis

Note: Calculated assuming 17 percent itemized deductions.

or shealand declution, whilever

## Illustrations of the Effect of the 5 Percent Surcharge on Single Persons

| (1   | dollars | )     |       |         |         |         |       |       |              |
|--|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|--------------|
|  | :       |       | Ad-   | usted g | ross in | come (w | ages) |       |              |
| :7,500:8,000:9,000:10,000:15,000:20,000:25,000:30,000:40,0     |         |       |       |         |         | 40,000  |       |       |              |
| Present law tax  | 995     | 1,087 | 1,283 | 1,482   | 2,549   | 3,783   | 5,230 | 6,850 | 10,5.        |
| Surcharge  | 0       | 4     | 14    | 24      | 78      | 139     | 212   | 293   | 4 <b>7</b> 6 |
| Surcharge as a percent of present tax (%)                      | -       | 0.4   | 1.1   | 1.6     | 3.1     | 3.7     | 4.1   | 4.3   | 4.5          |
| Office of the Secretary of the Treasury Office of Tax Analysis |         |       |       |         |         |         |       |       |              |

Note: Calculated assuming 17 percent itemized deductions or minimum standard deduction if more favorable.

October 10, 1974

#### SUBJECT:

#### EFFECT OF 5% SURCHARGE

| THOOM    | SINGLE | FAMILY  |
|----------|--------|---------|
| INCOME   | PERSON | OF FOUR |
| \$ 7,500 | \$ 0   | \$ 0    |
| \$10,000 | \$ 24  | \$ 0    |
| \$15,000 | \$ 78  | \$ 0    |
| \$20,000 | \$139  | \$ 42   |
| \$25,000 | \$212  | \$ 97   |
| \$30,000 | \$293  | \$158   |
| \$40,000 | \$476  | \$307   |
| \$50,000 |        | \$482   |

BASED ON ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME FROM WAGES.

ASSUMING 17 PER CENT IN ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS...OR STANDARD DEDUCTIONS, WHICHEVER IS MOST BENEFICIAL TO THE TAXPAYER.

## Illustrations of the Effect of the 5 Percent Surcharge on Four Person Families

Office of the Sccretary of the Treasury October 8, 1974
Office of Tax Analysis

#### Case A: \$15,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)   | \$15,000      |
|---|---------------|
| Less four personal exemptions (@ \$750)                                   | -3,000        |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income)      | <u>-2,550</u> |
| Equals taxable income   | 9,450         |
| Tax before surcharge  | 1,699         |
| Less surcharge floor for joint returns                                    | <u>-1,820</u> |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge   | 0             |
| Five percent surcharge  | 0             |
| Tax after surcharge   | 1,699         |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax                    | 0             |
|   |               |
| Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 8, Office of Tax Analysis | 1974          |

#### Case B: \$20,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$20,000      |
|--|---------------|
| Less four personal exemptions (@ \$750)                              | -3,000        |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income) | <u>-3,400</u> |
| Equals taxable income  | 13,600        |
| Tax before surcharge   | 2,660         |
| Less surcharge floor for joint returns                               | <u>-1,820</u> |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge                                      | 840           |
| Five percent surcharge   | 42            |
| Tax after surcharge  | 2,702         |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax               | 1.6%          |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury Office of Tax Analysis

October 8, 1974

#### Case C: \$50,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$50,000      |
|--|---------------|
| Less four personal exemptions (@ \$750)                              | -3,000        |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income) | <u>-8,500</u> |
| Equals taxable income  | 38,500        |
| Tax before surcharge   | 11,465        |
| Less surcharge floor for joint returns                               | <u>-1,820</u> |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge                                      | 9,645         |
| Five percent surcharge   | 482           |
| Tax after surcharge  | 11,947        |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax               | 4.2%          |
|  |               |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury Office of Tax Analysis

October 8, 1974

# Illustrations of the Effect of the 5 Percent Surcharge on Single Taxpayers

| Case | D | ••••• | \$ 7,500 | income |
|------|---|-------|----------|--------|
| Case | E | ••••• | \$10,000 | income |
| Case | F |       | \$15,000 | income |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 8, 1974
Office of Tax Analysis

#### Case D: \$7,500 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$7,500        |
|--|----------------|
| Less one personal exemptions (@ \$750)   | <b>-7</b> 50   |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income) or minimum standard deduction | - <u>1,300</u> |
| Equals taxable income  | 5,450          |
| Tax before surcharge   | 995            |
| Less surcharge floor for single returns  | <u>-995</u>    |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge  | 0              |
| Five percent surcharge   | 0              |
| Tax after surcharge  | 995            |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax   | 0              |
| Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 8, Office of Tax Analysis                          | 1974           |

#### Case E: \$10,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$10,000      |
|--|---------------|
| Less one personal exemptions (@ \$750)   | <b>-7</b> 50  |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income)   | <u>-1,700</u> |
| Equals taxable income  | 7,550         |
| Tax before surcharge   | 1,482         |
| Less surcharge floor for single returns  | -995          |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge  | 487           |
| Five percent surcharge   | 24            |
| Tax after surcharge  | 1,506         |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax   | 1.6%          |
| Office of the Country of the Transport o | 07/           |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury
Office of Tax Analysis

October 8, 1974

#### Case F: \$15,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)   | \$15,000     |
|---|--------------|
| Less one personal exemptions (@ \$750)                                    | <b>-7</b> 50 |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income)      | -2,550       |
| Equals taxable income   | 11,700       |
| Tax before surcharge  | 2,549        |
| Less surcharge floor for single returns                                   | <u>-995</u>  |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge   | 1,554        |
| Five percent surcharge  | 78           |
| Tax after surcharge   | 2,627        |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax                    | 3.1%         |
| Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 8, Office of Tax Analysis | 1974         |

## Illustrations of the Effect of the 5 Percent Surcharge on Four Person Families

| Case | G | ••••• | \$25,000 | income |
|------|---|-------|----------|--------|
| Case | H | ••••• |          | income |
| Case | I |       | \$40,000 | income |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 9, 1974
Office of Tax Analysis

#### Case G: \$25,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$25,000      |
|--|---------------|
| Less four personal exemptions (@ \$750)                              | -3,000        |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income) | <u>-4,250</u> |
| Equals taxable income  | 17,750        |
| Tax before surcharge   | 3,750         |
| Less surcharge floor for joint returns                               | <u>-1,820</u> |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge                                      | 1,930         |
| Five percent surcharge   | 97            |
| Tax after surcharge  | 3,847         |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax               | 2.6%          |
|  |               |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury
Office of Tax Analysis

October 9, 1974

Case H: \$30,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$30,000       |
|--|----------------|
| Less four personal exemptions (@ \$750)                              | -3,000         |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income) | <u>-5,100</u>  |
| Equals taxable income  | 21,900         |
| Tax before surcharge   | 4,988          |
| Less surcharge floor for joint returns                               | - <u>1,820</u> |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge                                      | 3,168          |
| Five percent surcharge   | 158            |
| Tax after surcharge  | 5,146          |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax               | 3.2%           |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury Office of Tax Analysis

October 9, 1974

#### Case I: \$40,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$40,000       |
|--|----------------|
| Less four personal exemptions (@ \$750)                              | -3,000         |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income) | - <u>6,800</u> |
| Equals taxable income  | 30,200         |
| Tax before surcharge   | 7,958          |
| Less surcharge floor for joint returns                               | - <u>1,820</u> |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge                                      | 6,138          |
| Five percent surcharge   | 307            |
| Tax after surcharge  | 8,265          |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax               | 3.9%           |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury Office of Tax Analysis

October 9, 1974

# Illustrations of the Effect of the 5 Percent Surcharge on Single Taxpayers

|        | •••••                                   | \$30,000 income |
|--------|---|-----------------|
| Case K | •••••                                   | \$25,000 income |
| Case J | *************************************** | \$20,000 income |

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 9, 1974
Office of Tax Analysis

#### Case J: \$20,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$20,000      |
|--|---------------|
| Less one personal exemptions (@ \$750)                                   | <b>-</b> 750  |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income)     | -3,400        |
| Equals taxable income  | 15,850        |
| Tax before surcharge   | 3,78 <b>3</b> |
| Less surcharge floor for single returns                                  | <u>-995</u>   |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge  | 2,788         |
| Five percent surcharge   | 139           |
| Tax after surcharge  | 3,922         |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax                   | 3.7%          |
| Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 9 Office of Tax Analysis | , 1974        |

#### Case K: \$25,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)\$25,000                                       |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| Less one personal exemptions (@ \$750)                                      | <b>-7</b> 50  |  |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income)        | <u>-4,250</u> |  |
| Equals taxable income   | 20,000        |  |
| Tax before surcharge  | 5,230         |  |
| Less surcharge floor for single returns                                     | <u>-995</u>   |  |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge   | 4,235         |  |
| Five percent surcharge  | 212           |  |
| Tax after surcharge   | 5,442         |  |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax                      | 4.1%          |  |
| Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 9, 1 Office of Tax Analysis | .974          |  |

# Case L: \$30,000 Income

| Wages (adjusted gross income)  | \$30,000     |
|--|--------------|
| Less one personal exemptions (@ \$750)   | <b>-</b> 750 |
| Less deductions for personal expenses (assumed 17 percent of income) or minimum standard deduction | -5,100       |
| Equals taxable income  | 24,150       |
| Tax before surcharge   | 6,850        |
| Less surcharge floor for single returns  | -995         |
| Equals tax subject to surcharge  | 5,855        |
| Five percent surcharge   | 293          |
| Tax after surcharge  | 7,143        |
| Tax increase (surcharge) as percent of present law tax   | 4.3%         |
| Office of the Secretary of the Treasury October 9, Office of Tax Analysis                          | 1974         |

10-4 d

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 2, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

PAULA. THEIS AT

SUBJECT:

Inflation Fighter Program

Revision

Attached is a copy of my earlier memo to Bill Seidman on the Inflation Fighter program with one major change: Point No. 5 which calls for a no-wage increase pledge from labor unions for six months has been dropped.

The reasons are obvious: (1) Since some unions are behind in pay increases for their members, there would be strong reluctance on the part of some labor leaders to sign such a pledge anyway and the program would be off to a shaky start; (2) The "pressure-cooker" aspects which could result from unions pledging not to seek wage increases and then making a massive push for such increases at the end of the six months' period would be removed; (3) There's no reason contracts which expire during this six months' period cannot be renegotiated -- only now in a more restrained atmosphere; (4) Businessmen facing possible wage boosts for their employees would be stimulated to seek better ways of increasing productivity and effecting cuts in operating costs to make up for the raises.

Attachment

The public response to the President's appeal for suggestions on ways they can save energy and fight inflation has been in two general categories:

- I. Ways the individual and his family can conserve and save;
- II. Measures the Federal Government can take to save energy and combat inflation.

With respect to the first group (individual measures), the most frequent suggestions have been:

- l. Plant "victory" gardens;
- Buy only products that are absolutely needed;
- Stop using credit cards and pay cash;
- 4. Drive at 55 m.p.h. and urge that speed limits be enforced;
- 5. Turn thermostats down to 67-68 degrees;
- 6. Turn off lights when not being used;
- 7. Combine shopping trips;
- 8. Vacation near your home;
- Always shop with a grocery list;
- 10. Recycle newspaper, metals and glass;
- 11. Insulate your home;



- 12. Drive small automobiles;
- 13. Use public transportation and urge development of more public transportation;
- 14. Vote for candidates who will cut government spending.

Frequent suggestions for things the Federal Government should do are:

- 1. Balance the Federal Budget;
- 2. Cut Foreign Aid;
- 3. Reduce interest rates;
- 4. Reduce the Defense budget;
- 5. Tax-free interest on the first \$500-1000 in savings accounts;
- 6. Tax break for the poor and higher taxes for the rich and corporations;
- 7. The President and Congressmen should set an example of cutting Federal spending by voluntarily cutting their salaries by 5-10%;
- 8. Roll back prices to 1970, 1971 or 1972;
- No gasoline tax;
- 10. Mandatory wage-price controls;
  - 11. Institute a shorter work week;
  - 12. Lower interest rates for home loans.

# PROPOSED STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE END OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP MEETING

Gentlemen, when you meet reporters afterwards, I suggest you say that the President has narrowed the alternatives he is considering for his economic speech and we discussed some of the alternatives this morning. Obviously, no decisions were made at this meeting.

The President asked us what the views of the American people would be on some of these ideas. The President said that contrary to news reports his economic planning is not in chaos. He said we do have some hard decisions and the misleading talk about chaos is simply indicitive of the hard choices we and the American people have to make as we bite the bullet on curbing inflation.

Gentlemen, I would ask that the specific ideas we have heard discussed here this morning be kept confidential. That's what we plan to do here at the White House.

Pores told it's a your com pagent and one you can support,

> What we goin to pregnere Generales of mini-Sunruls

# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

October 4, 1974

#### ORGANIZATION CHART FOR WHITE HOUSE INFLATION FIGHTER AND ENERGY SAVER CAMPAIGN:

The following have been completed:

- 1. Central command post established in the White House. Russ Freeburg, Coordinator.
- 2. Labor/Management Inflation Advisory Committee established and meeting. John Dunlop, Chairman.
- 3. Advertising Council relationship established. Council has started preparation of media campaign. Lew Schollenberger handling the operation.
- 4. Bill Baroody moving forward with business involvement.

The following are semi-operational:

- 1. Working relationship with the American Newspaper Publishers Association.
- 2. Public Relations Society of America has public service committees throughout the country. Carl Hawver, President, has not been reached as yet.
- 3. Consumer Federation of America is catch all organization for consumer groups. Carol Tucker Foreman is President. I think we can use her office.
- 4. Women organizations have no central office. They must be contacted individually, but I believe they could be very helpful.

5. NATIONAL Advisory committee in FORMATION STAGE.

#### FACT SHEET

# A PROGRAM TO CONTROL INFLATION IN A HEALTHY AND GROWING ECONOMY

## Contents

| <u>Pa</u>                                     | age |
|---|-----|
| Introduction                                  | 2   |
| Amending the Employment Act of 1946           | 3   |
| International Cooperation                     | 4   |
| Food  | 5   |
| Energy  | 7   |
| Increasing Productive Capacity                | 19  |
| Credit Allocation                             | 20  |
| Antitrust                                     | 21  |
| Government Regulation                         | 21  |
| Council on Wage and Price Stability           | 24  |
| National Commission on Productivity           | 24  |
| Employment Assistance                         | 25  |
| Housing                                       | 30  |
| Public Utilities                              | 32  |
| Thrift Institutions                           | 32  |
| The Budget                                    | 33  |
| Tax Proposals                                 | 36  |
| Citizens' Action Committee to Fight Inflation | 42  |

# A PROGRAM TO CONTROL INFLATION IN A HEALTHY AND GROWING ECONOMY

Although our economic system remains sound and strong, with its basic vitality intact, the economy is experiencing severe difficulties. Inflation is far too high. Too many people are having trouble finding employment. The financial markets are out of kilter. Interest rates are exorbitant. Housing is suffering badly. The productive capacity of the economy is expanding too slowly.

The origins of these problems are complex. Part of the problem grew out of several international shocks:

- -- The disastrous world-wide drop in crop production in 1972, which sent food prices soaring.
- -- Two international devaluations of the dollar, which made the United States a more attractive source for other countries to buy scarce materials.
- -- The tripling of crude oil prices, which exerted a powerful and pervasive effect on our entire price structure.

Here at home, a long period of excessively stimulative policies created inflationary pressures that gradually and inexorably mounted in intensity. With that condition prevailing, the economy could not absorb the outside shocks; rather, those have now been built into the system, deepening and extending our problem.

Twice within the past decade, in 1967 and in 1971-72, we let an opportunity to regain price stability slip through our grasp. Thus inflation has gathered momentum and has become the chronic concern of producers and consumers alike. Indeed, today inflation is the primary cause of our recession fears.

-- Consumer confidence has been shaken, causing most families to hold back on spending, as clearly indicated by the lack of growth in the physical volume of retail sales for the past year and a half.

-- An "inflation premium" has been added to "true" interest rates, so that we now have mortgages at 9-10 percent and corporate bonds at 10-12 percent. This has warped our financial markets, including the stock market, which were structured for an economy with a relatively stable price level.

Another development that has created a serious economic imbalance is the fact that our civilian labor force has been expanding rapidly. For the size of our labor force, therefore, we are short on capital equipment. During this same period, the effectiveness of price controls in certain sectors -- e.g., steel, paper and other basic materials -- created specific bottlenecks that limited the production capacity of the entire economy. As a result, unemployment was higher than it otherwise would have been. Also, the dampening impact of price controls on profits held back new capital expansion programs in some of these vital industries.

Thus, because our problems are complex, it is clear that our program to deal with them must be comprehensive. It is also clear that the solution cannot be achieved quickly. There are no simple, instantaneous cures for our difficulties. Discipline and patience are the watchwords.

We must, therefore, have a strong policy of budgetary and monetary restraint to work down the rate of inflation. At the same time, we must provide the means for a healthy long-run growth in the capacity of the economy, correct the imbalances that have developed in recent years, and see to it that the burdens of this effort are shared on an equitable basis. Some further rise in unemployment appears probable, and we will take steps to deal with it. However, we can and will achieve our goals without a large increase in unemployment. There will be no economic depression in the United States.

#### AMENDING THE EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1946

The Employment Act of 1946 makes it the policy of the Federal Government to "promote maximum employment, production and purchasing power." Although the words "purchasing power" have sometimes been interpreted as meaning pricelevel stability, it would nevertheless be helpful to clarify the term and make explicit in the Employment Act the goal of

stability in the general price level. The American people have a right to receive from their government stronger assurance that policies will be followed to safeguard the purchasing power of their money in addition to policies that will provide abundant job opportunities and a rising level of living.

We, therefore, suggest that the section of the Act referred to above be amended to read as follows: ". . . for all those able, willing, and seeking to work, to promote maximum employment, maximum production, and stability of the general price level."

#### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

There is much that we and other nations can do to restore the health of the international economy. The economic problems of one nation, as well as its policies for dealing with them, affect other nations. Governments thus have the responsibility not only to maintain healthy economies but also to formulate policies in a way that complements, rather than disrupts, the constructive efforts of others.

This is particularly true for major economic powers such as the United States. Our policies to reduce inflation and restore satisfactory growth are intended to contribute to the strengthening of the international economy. We intend, further, to work with others so that:

- -- We can ensure secure and reasonably priced goods, particularly food and fuel, for all nations.
- -- We can minimize national policy conflicts or distortions that direct resources away from their most productive uses.
- -- We can provide early warning of potential shifts in supply and demand so that nations can avoid potential disruptions.
- -- We can try to harmonize national efforts in such areas as conservation, investment and balance of payments management.

A small delegation led by Ambassador Eberle departed today for Canada, Europe and Japan to discuss the policies described herein and to explore how we can better address and resolve common problems in a mutually supportive fashion.

A cornerstone of our international efforts is the multilateral trade negotiation scheduled to begin this Passage of the Trade Reform Act will provide the United States with an opportunity to help improve the international trading order and to ensure that United States interests are well served therein. Without this bill, the United States will be regarded abroad as lacking the tools or the interest to build multilateral solutions to pressing economic problems. With it, the United States can play a leadership role in negotiating guidelines to reduce distortions of trade and investment that force workers or farmers in one nation to pay for the economic policies of another nation. We can also work toward a multilateral system of safeguards that provide for temporary -- but only temporary -limits on imports when there is a need for certain industries to adjust smoothly to economic shifts.

#### FOOD AND FIBER

Food prices are of major concern in our fight against inflation. Because of weather problems and heavy demands from around the world, food prices are anticipated to increase at an annual rate of 10 percent or more over the next 18 months. Only by expanding farm production, improving productivity, and containing foreign demand can we hope to reduce the rate of increase.

Increased production offers our brightest hope for combating inflation, and we are committed to a program of allout food production. There are presently no government restrictions on planting of wheat, feed grains, soybeans and cotton (excluding extra-long-staple cotton). To remove restrictions on rice production, we support pending legislation, but with a noninflationary target price. In addition, new legislation, which we support, has just been introduced to remove restrictions on the production of peanuts and extra-long-staple cotton.

Farmers must be assured of adequate supplies of fertilizers and fuel. The Secretary of Agriculture has been directed to work with the interagency Fertilizer Task Force to establish a reporting system. Fuel will be allocated if necessary. Authority

will be sought to allocate fertilizer, if that is needed. We will work with fertilizer companies to initiate voluntary efforts to reduce nonessential uses of fertilizer.

Over the past weekend the Federal Government initiated a voluntary program to monitor grain exports. We can and shall have adequate supplies at home, and through cooperation meet the needs of our trading partners abroad. A committee of the Economic Policy Board will be responsible for determining policy under this program. In addition, in order to better allocate our supplies for export, the President has asked that a provision be added to Public Law 480, under which we ship food to needy countries, to waive certain of the restrictions on shipments under that Act on national interest or humanitarian grounds.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and the National Commission on Productivity have been directed to help reduce the cost of food by improving efficiency in the agricultural sector. The Department and the Council on Wage and Price Stability will review marketing orders to insure that they do not reduce food supplies. Government regulations will be examined to elimiate those that interfere with productivity in the food processing and distribution industries.

Upward pressure on U. S. food prices will be reduced by helping developing nations to become more self-sufficient. We will share our advanced agricultural technology and aid in the construction of new fertilizer plants. We will support food reserve and emergency food aid programs. We are also taking steps to assure that the burden of the current tight feed grain situation is equitably distributed.

While increased food supplies are the only effective weapon against higher food prices in the long run, it takes time to grow those supplies. We cannot expect to see immediate benefits from the initiatives outlined here. We can, however, be confident that policies to maximize food and fiber production and to restrain food price increases are being pursued vigorously.

#### ENERGY

### I. General Statement

Expensive petroleum from insecure foreign sources jeopardizes national security, increases worldwide inflation and places strains on the international financial system. Therefore, in order to reduce United States dependence upon foreign supplies of energy, the President has decided upon the following program to meet the current energy challenge.

The immediate objective is to reduce oil consumption one million barrels per day by the end of 1975 below what it would have otherwise been without affecting industrial output. This energy program calls for both mandatory and voluntary action.

If immediate reductions are not achieved through the energy program presented today, the President will seek more stringent means to insure that United States dependence is reduced.

# II. Develop a new conservation policy

During the embargo last winter, Americans responded to energy conservation voluntarily. Now, though the crisis is less obvious, Americans must continue to apply voluntary restraint in the use of energy. As part of our continuing effort to conserve energy, the individual American and the American Industry and Government must think and act conservation, of not only energy but also resources and commodities that are used in our day to day life.

# III. Specific Program

A. Submit Legislation to Require Use of Coal and Nuclear for New Electric Power Generation and Conversion for Existing Plants

The Administration's policy is to eliminate oil and natural gas fired plants from the Nation's mainland baseloaded electric capacity where it is feasible to convert to coal or nuclear without endangering public health. A meeting of representatives from the utilities, the coal and nuclear industries, state regulatory

commissions and the relevant Federal agencies will be called by FEA to establish within 90 days a schedule for phasing out enough oil-fired plants to save 1.0 million barrels per day and to provide a list of actions required to ensure that the schedule is met. Any legislation necessary to accomplish this goal will be submitted afterwards.

Relevant considerations inherent in such a program are as follows:

## -- Potential for Conversion

Existing oil and gas plants that are convertible .75 MM b/d

Future plants (before 1980) scheduled for oil or gas (30,000 MW)

 $\frac{1.0}{1.75}$  MM b/d

Tota1

Goal (allowing for cases where conversions will not be attempted)

 $1.0 \, \text{MM b/d}$ 

#### -- Costs

- A. Because future plants are in varying stages of planning and development, total cost of one million barrels per day conversion is not known.
- B. However, report from utilities included in "existing plants" category above indicates that 750 thousand b/d conversion costs total \$106 million. It should be noted that these costs are considerably lower than what it would cost to continue burning oil at current world prices.

# -- Illustrative Comparison of Cost of Using Coal vs. Oil (based on 1 million barrels/day)

- 1 Cost of coal = \$ 6 million (at \$25 ton)
- 2 Cost of residual = \$12.0 million/day (at \$12.00 barrel)
- 3 Savings = \$6.3 million/day or \$2.2 billion/year

-- There are approximately 500 coal fired units that will not meet state regulations as of June of next year. However, most of these could meet the primary air quality standards (i.e. standards to protect human health).

These plants

use 185 million tons (1/3 of the nation's total coal consumption) of coal per year. This program would allow these plants to continue to burn coal, thus easing additional pressure on oil supplies.

## B. Defense Production Act

The Defense Production Act will be used selectively to ensure sufficient supplies of scarce materials needed for energy development projects. This Act was recently invoked to give priority to the delivery of supplies to expedite construction of the Trans-Alaskan pipeline terminal facilities.

# $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{C.} & \underline{\textbf{Automobile Industry must Develop Program for Gasoline}} \\ \underline{\textbf{Savings}} \\ \end{array}$

During the past two sessions of Congress, legislation to require fuel saving on new automobiles has been considered. Pursuant to the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act of 1974 a specific study of one aspect of this question is now underway. Unfortunately, the sum total of legislative requirements on automobile manufacturers has often caused confusion, additional cost to the consumer and unworkable deadlines. Therefore, the President is requesting the major automobile manufacturers to submit a five-year schedule of their plans to produce more efficient automobiles. Coals on efficiency for industry to meet will then be established. If necessary, the President will present legislation to the Congress for consideration.

# D. $\frac{\text{Industry must Conduct Energy Audit and Develop}}{\text{Savings Programs}}$

During the last six months, it has been demonstrated time and again that individual companies can cut energy usage dramatically. Nationwide, the potential savings for all industries under a strict conservation program can be significant. The President has requested the Secretary of Commerce to develop energy use guidelines which will suggest ways for industry to use energy more efficiently. The Secretary will also report on energy savings in specific industries, and

communicate that information to businessmen across the nation. In addition, the Commerce Department will monitor to determine areas of energy misuse within industry, and suggest alternatives to stop such waste.

# E. More rigid compliance with the maximum speed limit of 55 miles per hour; suggest new traffic control measures

The 55 mile speed limit set by Congress earlier this year has saved at least 250,000 b/d of petroleum. The Administration will emphasize the importance of rigid enforcement of this limit by State and local law enforcement agencies. In addition, the President is directing the Secretary of Transportation to work with State officials to suggest additional traffic control measures for conserving gasoline.

# F. Further Conservation within Government

The effects of energy conservation efforts within government has been dramatic. Most agencies have far exceeded their goals. However, governmental conservation programs will be made stricter, and enforced more vigorously. As a top priority, a review will be made of all governmentally imposed impediments to energy conservation, in so far as they adversely affect the day-to-day programs of both the government and the private industry operations.

Specific actions mandated and underway, or to be taken:

- -- Thermostats lowered to 68 degrees in the winter and raised to 78 degrees in the summer.
- -- Lighting reduced in public buildings.
- -- Speed limits on government vehicles reduced.
- -- Cut backs ordered in the number of trips taken, including miles driven and miles flown.
- -- Car pooling locators to be set up within metropolitan government bases.
- -- Parking spaces to be allocated on a priority basis to car poolers.
- -- Smaller automobiles to be purchased to replace larger cars

- -- Decorative lighting to be reduced.
- -- Outside lighting to be reduced.
- -- Voluntary Conservation Actions:

# G. Reduce energy consumption in commercial buildings

The commercial sector of the economy accounts for almost 15% of our total energy use. Studies have shown that commercial energy requirements can be significantly reduced by improved efficiency measures, and by taking positive steps to reduce lighting, heating and air conditioning. A 10% reduction in this sector can save the equivalent of approximately 500,000 barrels of oil per day.

# H. Reduce energy consumption in residences

Residential consumption of energy accounts for approximately 20% of total energy use. Prudent use of heating and air conditioning, reduced usage of hot water, lighting and appliances, and improved home insulation has the potential for saving the equivalent of well over one million barrels of oil per day. These steps would also, of course significantly reduce energy costs for the consumer.

# I. Reduce gasoline consumption

About one third of al. automobile travel consists of commuting to and from work. If the average number of passengers per commuter auto were to increase by one, a reduction in gasoline usage of well over 500,000 barrels per day could be achieved. The resulting lower consumption would also reduce the commuters out-of-pocket costs for high priced gasoline.

Regarding specific voluntary actions relating to (a), (b) and (c), the Administration will:

- -- Encourage everyone to lower thermostats in the home in the winter; nd raise them in the summer.
- -- Ask architects to design buildings with energy conservation in mind.
- -- Ask motorists to leep cars tuned and maintain proper tire pressure.
- -- Ask everyone to reduce temperature settings on hot water heaters.

- -- Ask everyone to turn off pilot lights on furnaces in the summer.
- -- Encourage everyone to use cold water for laundry.
- -- Encourage the use of public transportation.
- -- Urge an increase in the use of car pools.
- -- Urge reduction in use of nonessential home appliances.
- -- Urge reduced use of stoves, refrigerators, televisions, electric lights, washing machines.
- -- Encourage home owners to insulate and install storm windows.
- -- Urge turning off outside gas lights.
- -- Urge measures to increase the load factor on airline flights.

# J. Request state and federal regulatory authorities to eliminate rate schedules which encourage excessive energy consumption

The utility industry, under both state and federal regulations, have often developed rate structures that encourage increased energy consumption. Regulatory authorities should seek to design rate structures that encourage maximum energy conservation, promote use of generation capacity in off-peak periods, and only charge individual categories of users the cost of the power they actually consume.

# K. Natural Gas Supply Act

Natural gas is an invaluable source of clean, environmentally sound energy. For fifteen years, the Federal Power Commission has controlled and kept low its wellhead price, and thus reduced incentives to the development of new domestic supplies. In 1957, new discoveries of natural gas totalled approximately 22 trillion cubic feet. By 1972 this had fallen to less than three trillion cubic feet. In 1955 the U.S. had a 22.5 year supply of gas reserves, and in 1972 only 10.7 years.

The nation is now importing foreign liquefied gas (LNG) at prices three times controlled domestic price. The nation faces continued and increasing rates of curtailment of gas being supplied to current users, including gas for agricultural production.

The only real solution to the supply problem lies in deregulation of new gas, so as to stimulate production.

Legislation to achieve this result has long been stalled in the Congress. This logjam must be broken, so that domestic gas reserves may be identified and brought into production as quickly as possible.

L.

Naval Petroleum Reserves - permit maximum production from reserve #1 (Elk Hills) and implement full scale exploration and development of production capability of reserve #4 (Alaska)

At the present time, two Naval Petroleum Reserves, Elk Hills, California (NPR #1), and NPR #4 in Alaska, could, if fully developed, provide significant production capability. Elk Hills is about 50% developed but needs further development to place it in a state of readiness. It is estimated that production capability of 160,000 barrels per day could be achieved within two months, with the long term maximum efficient rate of production at about 267,000 barrels per day. The estimated potential of NPR #1 runs as high as 1.7 billion barrels. The vast tract in Alaska, NPR #4, is largely unexplored but offers a significant potential for development. Recoverable reserves are estimated to be as much as 30 billion barrels.

The statutory authority for the naval petroleum reserves, and oil shale is included in Chapter 641, Title 10, U.S. Code. Key provisions in the authority provide that the reserves shall be used and operated for:

(1) The protection, conservation, maintenance and testing of the reserves.

(2) The production of petroleum, gas, oil shale or products thereof, whenever and to the extent the Secretary of the Navy, with the approval of the President, finds that it is needed for national defense and production is authorized by a joint resolution of Congress.

The President is directing the Secretaries of Defense, Navy and Interior, within the next 90 days, to develop proposals (including any needed legislation) directed toward the exploration and development of NPR #4 as rapidly as possible.

## M. Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970 represent a landmark in our progress toward environmental protection, and definite progress is being made in cleaning up the Nation's air.

The Act describes very stringent guidelines for compliance by mobile and stationary sources. Many of these goals are achievable as drafted. In some cases, however, more flexibility is needed to achieve the objectives of the Act and to allow use of coal, the nation's most abundant domestic energy source. The amendments that have been transmitted to the Congress by the Administration would provide this needed flexibility to effectively respond to the nation's energy problems without jeopardizing the Act's health related requirements. Passage of all of these amendments will not diminish continuing efforts for a cleaner environment.

# N. Surface Mining

Coal is the nation's most abundant and available energy resource. The Administration has proposed and long supported surface mining legislation that would allow continued and accelerated development of domestic coal reserves with appropriate protection of environment values.

Severe problems still remain with some of the provisions of the legislation which has passed both houses of the Congress. Its enactment as now drafted could involve not only serious production losses but inflationary cost impacts throughout the entire economy.

Secretary Morton and his staff have been working closely with the committee to resolve the most important of these problems, including surface owner protection provisions, funding absolute prohibitions of mining in certain areas, unnecessarily broad statements of purposes, and provisions for multiple litigation that could delay or halt ongoing production efforts.

# O. Nuclear Plant Licensing Bill

The 9-10 years now required to bring nuclear power plants on line must be reduced. Towards this end, Congress should pass the Nuclear Plant Licensing Bill which will expedite licensing and construction power costs, and accelerate U.S. energy self-sufficiency.

## P. Windfall Profits Tax

Since 1973, the prices that may be charged for domestic crude oil production have been strictly controlled by the Cost of Living Council and the Federal Energy Administration (formerly the Federal Energy Office).

Various measures are available to stimulate production from our existing fields by adjusting these controls. Such adjustments are needed on a priority basis, but they could generate sudden profit increases for companies producing oil.

The Administration has proposed a windfall profits tax that would cushion this shock and reduce such profits, and this requires prompt action by the Congress. Expeditious enactment of this tax measure is necessary to maximize production without undue enrichment of the industry.

### Q. Deepwater Port Facilities Act

Pending legislation would authorize the Federal Government to grant permits for the construction and operation of offshore oil terminal facilities. Such facilities would allow imported oil to be transported more safely and economically on very large crude carriers, and reduce tanker traffic in the nation's already overcrowded harbors. It would encourage the construction of domestic refineries and thus lessen U.S. dependence on imported products from foreign refineries. An extensive environmental impact statement already prepared indicates that the amount of oil spilled in the nation's harbors and coastal regions will be reduced by these facilities.

### R. Energy Research and Development Administration, ERDA

The President is urging to complete consideration of legislation to create ERDA before the recess. ERDA's mission will be to develop technologies for efficiently using fossil, nuclear and advanced energy sources to meet growing needs and in a manner consistent with sound environmental and safety practices. The agency will have responsibility for policy formulation, strategy development, planning, management, conduct of the energy R&D and for working with industry to assure that promising new technologies can be developed and applied.

# S. Accelerate Oil Leasing of Federal Lands on the Outer Continental Shelf

Prospects for large, new discoveries of onshore oil and gas deposits in the lower 48 states are small. For this reason, leasing of the Federal OCS must be greatly accelerated with a target of ten million acres annually in 1975. is an amount 5-times larger than the 2 million acres expected to be leased during 1974; and 1974 in turn is twice the acreage leased during 1973. To sustain this schedule it will be necessary to lease frontier areas off Alaska, California and the Atlantic coast. The accelerated leasing program will comply with all provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, and every step will be taken to insure that development will be carried out under environmentally sound conditions. The President has directed the Secretary of Interior to meet with coastal state officials to establish the program needed to rapidly develop Outer Continental Shelf resources.

## T. Incentives to Secondary and Tertiary Production

Under current technology, 65 billion barrels of oil would be left in the ground in known reservoirs. Some existing price controls have a tendency to discourage increased production from existing oil fields, especially declining fields. The President has directed the adjustment of these controls so as to maximize incentives to use secondary and tertiary production methods in such cases.

## U. Coal Leasing of Federal Lands

The government intends to complete steps to resume leasing of federal lands in 1975 to develop the vast coal resources underlying these lands. Increased world oil prices have forced the nation to look to alternative supplies of energy. The nation's most plentiful resource is coal, with over 1.5 trillion tons beneath the surface of America; public lands alone contain 200 billion tons. The President has directed Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton to complete the requisite environmental impact statements and move to establish a program for leasing coal on Federal lands in 1975 that will insure the availability of this resource when needed for immediate production.

# V. Leasing Public Lands for Oil Shale and Geothermal Development

Early this year, the government leased 18 tracts in known geothermal areas. Ten of these tracts, located in the Geysers Field of Northern California, can supplement efforts on private lands that have already proven to be of commercial value. The remaining tracts, in the Imperial Valley of California, offer a testing opportunity--tapping hot, mineralized water for commercial use as an energy source.

Early this year, four oil shale tracts were leased in Colorado and Utah which are expected to be of commercial value. Developmental work, already underway, will assess the economic and environmental feasibility of exploiting this vast oil shale resource--estimated as containing 400 billion barrels of oil in the western United States.

The Administration will immediately re-evaluate the government's oil shale and geothermal leasing programs with a view toward encouraging more rapid development of these resources.

## W. Completion of Plans to Bring Alaskan Gas to Market

Exploration and development of natural gas in Alaska is moving very rapidly. By next year, the basic information will be available to determine whether Alaskan gas should be brought to the U. S. via a pipeline across Alaska or a pipeline across Alaska and through Canada. In response to a congressional mandate, environmental and economic analysis for each alternative is under way, and should be completed early next year. With the completion of these studies and plans, the President will determine whether and what legislation is needed to expedite access to this large source of environmentally clean energy.

# OF THE ECONOMY

In the long run, the answer to inflation is an economy with sufficient productive capacity to meet the demands of its people. This growth can be accomplished in three interrelated ways: First, through a better-trained, better-motivated and healthier work force. Second, through a larger and more productive stock of plant and equipment. Third, through an increase in the operational efficiency of workers and their equipment -- in short, by working smarter.

Increasing Investment. To accelerate the growth of capital investment, the President is calling for an increase in and a restructuring of the investment tax credit. The credit will be increased from 7 to 10 percent; for utilities the increase is from 4 to 10 percent. The restructuring of the credit will eliminate existing restrictions that now limit the incentive value of the credit and that discriminate unfairly between types of taxpayers and investments that qualify for the credit. (See Tax Proposals.)

Strengthening the Capital Markets. The financial markets are the centerpiece of our economic system. Healthy and freely functioning markets to bring together savers and investors are crucial to the expansion of the nation's plant and equipment, which in turn is essential to the creation of new jobs and also to the growth of productivity that permits a rise in our standard of living. Every American has a vital stake in the vitality of our financial markets.

The most important thing that we can do to restore the glow of health to our capital markets is to get control of inflation. A rapidly rising price level is the bitter enemy of savings and investment.

As part of this anti-inflation effort, we will take a step that will also have, of itself, a direct beneficial impact on our financial markets. That step is to move toward a balanced budget, and to end the drain that past deficits have made on our capital markets. This would mean that more of the savings generated by our private economy could be used for new productive investment.

And in this context, we must also take account of the demands of the off-budget agencies of the Federal Government, and Federal credit guarantees (for housing, student loans, etc.)

as well.

We must create a better environment in the financial markets for equity capital. In recent years, corporations have been unable to raise adequate new equity capital. They have been adding heavily to their debt, however, and as a result the capital structure of business has been getting out of balance, with too much debt and too little equity. This is especially true for our electric utilities.

As a contribution toward the solution to this problem and also to improve the health of our financial markets and to encourage investment, the President has proposed tax legislation to provide that dividends paid on qualified preferred stock be allowed as a deduction to the paying corporation.

The Administration also supports strongly the Financial Institutions Act of 1973 (see Thrift Institutions), and the securities reform legislation pending in Congress that would authorize the Securities and Exchange Commission to establish a national market system for securities transactions. We are also working with the Congress to revise the treatment of capital gains and losses in such a way as to increase efficiency in the flow of capital.

In addition, we support pending legislation to eliminate the withholding tax on interest and dividend income accruing to foreign holders of U.S. securities. Elimination of this would stimulate a larger flow of funds to capital markets in the United States.

#### CREDIT ALLOCATION

An issue that has been widely debated in recent years is whether or not the Federal Government should intervene directly into the financial markets to require banks and other credit institutions to make more loans for socially desirable purposes and less for "unproductive" purposes. In our view, allocation of credit by the Federal Government would be highly undesirable. There is no basis for believing that the Government could in fact allocate credit in a way that was acceptable to the American people.

However, the Federal Advisory Council, a statutory body that advises the Federal Reserve Board, has suggested constructive guidelines for credit extension by the banks on a

voluntary basis. The Federal Reserve Board has endorsed these guidelines, and expects compliance by the banks.

#### ANTITRUST

The elimination of outmoded government regulation must of course be accompanied by dedicated and vigorous enforcement of the antitrust laws. Violation of these laws is a serious crime. Only through maintenance of vigorous competition can we realize the benefits of less regulation. Our efforts must be strengthened. We will focus particularly on more effective enforcement of the laws against price fixing and bid rigging. These types of activities which increase prices substantially cannot be permitted.

Illegal fee schedules in the professions and in real estate closings must also be eliminated. Such conduct will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

To support this intensified enforcement effort, the President has asked for legislative enactments in two areas. First, we must increase the penalties associated with antitrust violations -- for corporations the maximum fine should be increased from \$50,000 to \$1 million while for individuals it should be increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Second, we must strengthen the investigation powers of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. This can be accomplished by speedy passage of the Administration's legislation now pending before the Congress that would amend the Antitrust Civil Process Act, and to provide laws which would give enforcement agencies greater capability to detect bid rigging.

#### GOVERNMENT REGULATION

The Federal Government imposes many hidden and inflationary costs on our economy. Laws and regulations have been put into effect with little concern for the underlying costs. These billions of dollars of increased costs are passed on to American consumers in the form of higher prices. A broad program will be undertaken to attack this problem and to identify opportunities for change. These proposals could save billions of dollars, which could then be devoted to more productive investments. They would also reduce the visibility and impact of government on the American people.

The Council on Wage and Price Stability will act as a continuing watchdog on the inflationary actions of the Executive

Departments and agencies to uncover laws and regulations that raise costs and stifle economic flexibility and initiative. We need to eliminate or alter many restrictive practices of the Federal Government in areas such as transportation, labor and agriculture -- practices that unnecessarily increase the overall costs of goods and services. Both the Conference on Inflation and the Joint Economic Committee recommendations support this approach. The Council will devote a very substantial part of its effort to this function.

National Commission on Regulatory Reform. The independent regulatory commissions, through their broad policy determinations and individual case decisions, create a body of regulatory policy separate and apart from that of the rest of the Executive Branch. The President will submit legislation to create a National Commission on Regulatory Reform to examine the policies, practices and procedures of these Agencies and develop appropriate legislative and administrative recommendations. Its membership should include Executive Branch, Congressional, and private sector representation.

Inflation and Job Impact Statement. The President will require all executive agencies to develop Inflation Impact Statements to assess the inflationary consequences of major legislation or regulations prior to the agency taking action. Such an impact statement would sensitize government decision-makers to the broader consequences of government activities, and to the tradeoff of costs versus benefits in government programs.

The President recommends that the Congress set a similar requirement for itself. The proposed Commission on Regulatory Reform should examine the feasibility of legislation requiring independent regulatory agencies to do a similar preanalysis of their actions.

Speedier Adjudication and Proceedings. New approaches are required to eliminate the interminable delays often created before regulatory matters are resolved. The courts and the independent regulatories are urged to develop new approaches to assure prompt resolution of pending matters. The Executive Branch will undertake a similar effort.

States and Local Governments. Other governmental units are urged to undertake a similar broad program to bring under control the inflationary influence of government at all levels.

Enactment of Pending Legislation. There are several important pieces of legislation now pending before Congress, whose enactment would help to reduce the burdens now imposed on the economy by government activities. These include the Surface Transportation Act, the Financial Institutions Act, Trade Reform, and the creation of a Paper Work Commission to review the administrative "bookkeeping" requirements levied by government on the private sector. Congress is urged to move swiftly to enact these measures.

## COUNCIL ON WAGE AND PRICE STABILITY

The Council on Wage and Price Stability will devote primary emphasis to two functions: First, it will act as a watchdog on the actions of the Executive Departments and Agencies of the Government that raise costs and impede competition. It will recommend needed changes in administrative procedures, and changes in legislation where necessary, to correct these practices.

Second, it will monitor wage and price movements in the private sector. In general, the Council will carry out this function by seeking the full, voluntary cooperation of labor, industry, and the public to solve problems of mutual concern. The Council will cooperate fully with the President's new Labor-Management Committee. In addition, the Council has the power to conduct public hearings and intends to use it to explore the justification for price and wage increases, as appropriate.

Among other duties the Council on Wage and Price Stability will work with the Cabinet Committee on Food and the Interagency Fertilizer Task Force. Also, in dealing with specific sectors in which price pressures are particularly virulent, efforts will have to be concentrated on food, energy, construction, medical care and primary industrial capacity.

The Council, however, will not be a wage and price control agency. Controls do <u>not</u> stop inflation; they did not do so the last time around nor even in World War II when prices increased despite severe rationing.

Indeed, controls can make inflation worse. They often create shortages, hamper increased production, stifle growth and cause unemployment. Ultimately, they can cause the fixer and black marketeer to flourish while decent citizens confront empty shelves and long waiting lines.

#### NATIONAL COMMISSION ON PRODUCTIVITY

Increased productivity -- working smarter to increase the total economic output of our work force and equipment -is a vital component of the drive to increase production. This long-term goal will be pursued by a revitalized National Commission on Productivity. The Commission will also extend and deepen the drive to increase productivity in government -- Federal, state and local. It is important that government set a good example of leadership in this effort, and we may be sure that there is no shortage of opportunity for productivity in the operations of government. The rest of its effort will be in the private sector, with primary emphasis on meaningful programs at the plant level. Special attention will be devoted to food, transportation, construction and health-services.

#### EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Increases in unemployment have raised the Nation's unemployment rate to 5.8 percent in September. During this period of high inflation and unemployment, there is a need for Federal standby authority with minimal inflationary impact, which will help alleviate the impact of unemployment should unemployment rates rise. Such action is necessary to help alleviate unemployment problems in areas most affected and to assure that the impact of inflation does not unduly burden those workers least able to bear the costs.

The National Employment Assistance Act of 1974 would respond to these needs by authorizing, during the next 18-month period two programs which would begin to operate should the national unemployment rate average 6 percent or more for 3 months:

- (1) A temporary program of income replacement known as the Special Unemployment Assistance Program for experienced unemployed workers in areas of high unemployment who have exhausted all other unemployment compensation or who are not eligible for such compensation; and
- (2) A program of employment projects for these same areas, known as the Community Improvement Program.

While the primary purpose of the two programs is to alleviate the hardships of unemployment upon individuals, it will also alleviate the adverse impact on those local economies hardest hit by unemployment.

The unemployment assistance benefits serve to cushion the effects of protracted unemployment by providing additional income replacement to workers who have either exhausted their regular unemployment compensation benefits or to individuals with a demonstrated labor force attachment not otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Not only does this replace lost income, but it provides workers with the time and opportunity to look for work consistent with their skills and experience.

The table below shows funds and services now available under Unemployment Compensation laws and the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). It also indicates how much would become available over a twelve month period for current unemployment programs, and for the two new proposed programs, at average national unemployment levels of 6 percent and 6.5 percent. Title II of the National Employment Assistance Act would make a further \$1 billion available if national unemployment exceeded 7 percent on average for three months or more.

|  | 5.8%                    | <u>6%</u>   | 6.5%                     |
|--|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| CETA Public Service Jobs Funds:  |                         | \$1,015 mil.<br>170,000                               | \$1,015 mil.<br>170,000  |
| CETA Other Training and Employment Funds:  | \$1,700 mil.<br>380,000 | \$1,700 mil.<br>380,000                               | \$1,700 mil.<br>380,000  |
| Unemployment Benefits (current law) Payments: Beneficiaries:                             | 7.9 mil.                | \$8,145 mil.<br>8.2 mil.<br>nnual rate)               | \$9,065 mil.<br>9.2 mil. |
| National Employment<br>Assistance Act  |                         |   |                          |
| Special Unemployment Benefits Payments Beneficiaries UI Exhaustees Previously Ineligible |                         | \$2,120 mil.<br>2.73 mil.<br>(.83 mil.)<br>(1.9 mil.) | (1.05 mil.)              |
| Community Improvement Projects Funds Man Years of Employ-                                |                         | \$500 mil.  | \$1,250 mil.             |
| ment   | vices comp arms 444%    | 83,000  | 208,000                  |

The initiation of temporary projects by State and local governments is perhaps the least inflationary way of providing jobs for unemployed workers. Jobs provided by these projects help to cushion the loss of income due to unemployment, while enabling State and local governments to provide their citizens with a socially useful product.

Because projects under this program will be generated in and geared to areas with high unemployment in which there exists a substantial amount of available manpower, there should be little or no adverse impact on the regular labor market. There is a limit of \$7,000 a year for jobs authorized by this program and therefore the average wages will be considerably less than those earned in the private sector. Most workers will obtain private jobs as the economy grows.

The added cost of Community Improvement Projects may be offset somewhat by reduced demand for food stamps and welfare payments, and by some increase in tax receipts from employees in these projects.

Basic funding provisions of the National Employment
Assistance Act. Funds for both the Special Unemployment
Assistance Program and the Community Improvement Program
become available when the national unemployment rate reaches
6.0 percent on average for three consecutive months. For
the Special Unemployment Assistance Program, such funds as
are necessary are authorized if unemployment is above this
level. For Community Improvement Program, successive
increments of funds are authorized if the national unemployment level reaches, for three consecutive months an
average of:

- -- 6.0 percent -- \$500 million dollars authorized;
- -- 6.5 percent -- another \$750 million dollars authorized; and
- -- 7.0 percent -- an additional one billion dollars authorized.

When the national unemployment rate recedes below these respective levels for three consecutive months on average, Federal funds for new projects will cease.

Eighty percent of the available funds for Community Improvement Projects will be distributed by formula among

eligible applicants based on (1) the relative number of unemployed residing in areas of substantial unemployment within their jurisdictions, and (2) the severity of unemployment; 20 percent would be expended at the discretion of the Secretary, principally to finance projects in areas which become eligible after the formula distribution is made.

The local labor market area--and balance of State--unemployment rates determine the communities in which both programs will be operating. Both programs are directed to those areas in which unemployment is highest. Both programs come into effect in a labor market area, with a population of 250,000 or more, when it has an unemployment rate equal to or in excess of 6.5 percent for three months on average. The balance of each State not included in such areas will constitute a single area in which the programs will become effective subject to the same unemployment rate criterion. When the local unemployment level recedes below 6.5 percent on average for three consecutive months no new individuals become eligible and no new projects may be started.

Special Unemployment Assistance Program. This new temporary unemployment assistance program will be separate from but supplemental to the existing Federal-State Unemployment Insurance (UI) System, and is designed to extend coverage to experienced persons in the labor force who have exhausted their UI benefits or are otherwise ineligible for such benefits. The program would be operated through agreements with the States. All experienced members of the workforce will be eligible for benefits as follows:

- -- They must have last worked in a labor market area (or balance of State area) with substantial unemployment.
- -- Benefits will be governed by benefit provisions of each State UI law.
- -- Individuals who had exhausted their benefits under State UI programs will be eligible for a maximum of 13 weeks benefits.
- -- Individuals who were not previously eligible for State UI benefits will be eligible for a maximum of 26 weeks provided that they have attachment to labor force as required by the relevant State UI law.

- -- Benefits for UI ineligibles will generally be the amount that would be payable as computed under State law if all work was performed for covered employers.
- -- No new beneficiaries would be eligible after June 30, 1976.

## Community Improvement Program.

- -- New program is structured so that as the national employment rate rises, more money is available for community improvement projects.
- -- Projects are limited to areas eligible for the Special Unemployment Assistance Program.
- -- Eligible applicants are prime sponsors under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, in areas that qualify.
- -- Projects may be with State or local government agencies.
- -- Each Community Improvement project is limited to 6 months duration.
- -- Not more than 10 percent of a sponsor's funds may be used for administrative costs, supplies, material, and equipment.
- -- Individuals eligible for employment on these projects are those who have exhausted their benefits under the Special Unemployment Assistance Program.
- -- Wages paid project employees must be at least the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act, or the State or local minimum wage, whichever is higher; however, in no case may the wage exceed an annual rate of \$7,000. State or local governments may not supplement wages with their own funds.
- -- Prohibitions against political activities and discrimination apply to the program.

The Community Improvement Program will provide funding for projects such as conservation, maintenance or restoration of natural resources, community beautification, anti-pollution and environmental quality efforts, economic development and the improvement and expansion of health, education, and recreation services and such other services which contribute to the community.

#### INTERIM HOUSING AID

President Ford proposed extending, on a temporary basis, the advantages offered by the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA or Ginnie Mae) to mortgages which are not Federal Housing Administration (FHA) insured or Veterans Administration (VA) guaranteed -- so called "conventional" mortgages. Three billion dollars -- an amount sufficient to finance about 100,000 new homes -- would be available. The proposed program will be in addition to the over \$19 billion of Federal funds that have been made available over the past year for the purchase of mortgages to supplement the buying power of hard-pressed thrift Institutions.

GNMA currently aids in creating a supply of credit for mortgages on new homes insured by FHA or guaranteed by VA -- about 20% of the total mortgages -- at reasonable interest rates by

- -- assuring, through commitments in advance, purchase of mortgages at a pre-determined price.
- -- subsidizing market interest rates to lower levels in the event interest rates do not fall after commitments are made.
- -- guaranteeing, on a "full faith and credit basis," obligations secured by such mortgages.

#### Housing Industry Situation Critical. Over the past 22 months

- -- housing starts have dropped from 2.51 million units to 1.13 million units.
- -- unemployment in the construction industry is 12.4 percent and climbing, with almost a half million construction workers now unemployed.
- -- many homebuilders are in financial difficulty.

#### President Ford's Proposal for Interim Housing Aid

By making conventional mortgages on new homes eligible for purchase by GNMA, builders and homebuyers will be assisted where home mortgage credit is scarce or non-existent.

- 1. Level of Commitments. Aggregate amount of commitments and mortgages which GNMA could hold at any time, i.e. have purchased and not resold, could not exceed \$7.75 billion. A program of \$3 billion of mortgage commitments, or enough to finance about 100,000 new homes, is contemplated. The precise amount would be determined on the basis of market conditions at the time the new authority becomes law, and additional programs would be activated as circumstances require.
- 2. Mortgage Amounts, Discounts, Interest Rates, and Downpayment Requirements. Subject to Congressional approval the program would provide for a maximum mortgage amount of \$45,000. The effective interest rate would be determined on the basis of market conditions at the time the program went into effect and would be somewhat above the rate offered on GNMA tandem programs for FHA/VA mortgages -- presently 8 3/4%. Twenty percent downpayments would be required with an exception for down to 5% downpayments if the additional mortgage amount is covered by a qualified private mortgage insurance contract so as to minimize cost of mortgagor defaults.
- 3. GNMA Disposition of Conventional Mortgages. Following the precedent of existing law, GNMA could, depending upon market or other factors, sell mortgages to the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), sell mortgages or commitments with a provision for pooling by FNMA or FHLMC or other approved issuers and sale by such issuers of GNMA-guaranteed "pass through" securities or bond type securities on the market or to the Federal Financing Bank or sell guaranteed "pass through" securities to the Federal Financing Bank.
- 4. Cost and Budget Implications. Any subsidy would be paid out of corporate funds and ultimately from Treasury borrowing. Dollar amount of mortgages purchased would not be excluded from budget authority, but would appear as outlays in any fiscal year only to the extent they are not offset by sales that year. Assuming (i) all mortgages purchased in a given fiscal year were sold in that year, (ii) a face interest rate of 9 1/4%, (iii) no discount points on GNMA purchase and (iv) an average market rate at time of GNMA sale of 10%, the budget outlays per each billion dollars of mortgages would be about \$50 million.

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES

The problems of our public utilities are extremely serious. More than anything, they are suffering from the effects of inflation — in particular the explosion in oil prices but also from high interest rates. Their inability to raise all the capital they need is forcing them to reduce construction plans, which causes unemployment today and the real threat of brown-outs tomorrow.

The most fundamental part of the solution to these problems is for increases in the cost of electricity, reflecting high prices for fuel, to be paid by the consumers. This means higher rates, as painful as they are.

In the past, the utilities industry has developed rate structures that encourage excessive energy consumption. These promotional rates are often at lower levels than the cost of the energy provided, and thus give a perverse incentive at a time when conservation is our goal. Regulatory authorities should eliminate such rate schedules promptly.

While the Federal Government will not pre-empt the regulatory functions of the States, the States must meet their responsibilities fully.

In addition, the restructuring of the investment tax credit and its increase from 4 percent to 10 percent for the utilities (the same as for businesses generally) will assist these companies in overcoming their financial problems. The new proposal that dividends paid on qualified preferred stock also be allowed as a deduction to the paying corporation will also help the utilities improve their capital structure, and energy conservation measures, mandatory and voluntary, will hold down future financing requirements of utilities.

#### THRIFT INSTITUTIONS

Our savings institutions are another victim of the twin scourges of high inflation and high interest rates. To correct this situation, we must bring inflation down. However, we must also provide the means for the thrift industry to restructure itself — to give these institutions the ability to compete on an equal basis in the financial markets and to operate effectively under all interest—rate conditions. To this end, we urge prompt passage of the Financial Institutions Act of 1973.

The Act will reduce the structural differences between commercial banks and thrift institutions, primarily by permitting the thrift institutions to engage in additional deposit and credit activities. Passage of this Act would provide a broader range of financial services for consumers and a higher rate of return for savers. It would improve income and liquidity in the thrift institutions. The Act also contains provisions that will improve and support the mortgage market.

In addition, we support the proposals now under consideration in both the House and Senate to increase Federal insurance on private deposits. We recommend an increase from \$20,000 to \$50,000 Such an increase will reinforce public confidence in our financial system.

#### THE BUDGET

Control of the Federal Budget is a vital component of our antiinflation efforts. Reducing the fiscal 1975 budget is the first step in reducing the powerful momentum of our rapidly climbing Federal budget and thereby gaining the spending control so necessary for 1976 and beyond. And this extended budget control will substantially reduce inflation over the longer term.

This should not suggest that budget control has no short-run benefits. Quite the contrary. A reduction in the deficit for fiscal 1975 would reduce pressures in the financial markets, lower interest rates and provide more credit for housing and other new capital investment. It would mean that monetary policy would not have to bear the full burden of economic policy restraint. And it would reduce inflationary expectations by demonstrating convincingly that the Federal government is putting its own financial house in order.

Our program for fiscal discipline has elements on both sides of the budget. On the revenue side we have proposed a tax surcharge on high-income taxpayers and corporations. The increased revenues from the surcharge will pay for the additional unemployment insurance, the Community Improvement Program, the increased and restructured investment tax credit and the revised tax status of preferred stock dividends.

On the expenditure side, the President has reaffirmed his intention to hold budget outlays for fiscal 1975 to below \$300 billion. Cutbacks of over \$5 billion will be needed to reach the goal. We are

already in the fourth month of the fiscal year; thus reductions of the amount required will be difficult to obtain. There is need for rapid action, and the Congress and Executive together will need to work together quickly and effectively to put expenditures on a long-term track that is consistent with the productive capacity of the American economy and with what the American people are willing to pay for.

The President has asked the Congress to enact a bill setting a spending target for fiscal year 1975 of less than \$300 billion. In establishing that target, the bill outlines a plan for developing a set of actions that would result in the necessary spending reductions of FY 1975. These actions would be transmitted to Congress for its consideration when it returns in November. The actions to hold down spending will concentrate on those programs that serve special interests, create inequities, or are less essential at this time when fiscal discipline is so important. Concurrence of the Congress in these proposals before the beginning of calendar year 1975 is essential if the \$300 billion target is to be achieved.

The Administration together with the Congress have already begun to take action on this outlay control program in national defense activities. The Congress has passed, and the President has signed, a defense appropriation bill that will reduce defense outlays in FY 1975 by about \$2 billion. This is the largest single cut we will be making and is a good start toward the \$300 billion goal.

The remainder of the necessary outlay control plan will be carried out in the fullest spirit of cooperation with the Congress. Rapid consideration by the Congress of legislative proposals and budget rescissions and deferrals under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 will be essential if we are to meet our goal. Only through the most careful consultation with the Congress can we succeed. We must achieve a mutual understanding of the best ways to hold down the budget.

We also have to improve the content of the budget. As now stated, the budget — because it does not adequately show the impact of the Government's credit program — does not present to the American people a complete picture of Federal activities and their effect on the economy. The Federally sponsored credit agencies and the many guarantee programs must be brought into the budget more directly.

The table below shows the estimated impact on budget expenditures and receipts of the proposals in this message.

#### BUDGET IMPACT

|   | <u>FY 1975</u> (\$ bil                       | lions) FY 1976                                       |
|---|--|--|
| New Proposals Additional Revenues:  |  |  |
| Tax surcharge:     Corporations     High-income individuals     Revenue Losses:   | +0.6<br>+1.0                                 | +1.5<br>+1.6   |
| Employment assistance* Housing program Investment tax credit:   | -0.1<br>-0.1                                 | -1.3<br>-0.1   |
| Individuals<br>Corporations   | -0.1<br>-0.7                                 | -0.5<br>-2.0   |
| Preferred stock dividends<br>Net Impact   | +0.6   | $\frac{-0.1}{-0.9}$                                  |
| Pending Tax Reform Bill   |  |  |
| Pending tax reform: Increased oil taxes Closing loopholes** Simplification Other tax reform Low-income relief — recommended addition Net Impact | +1.3<br>+0.1<br><br>-1.0<br>-0.9<br><br>-0.5 | +2.2<br>+0.8<br>-0.4<br>-0.2<br>-1.6<br>-0.4<br>+0.4 |
| Budget Impact of New and<br>Pending Proposals   | +0.1   | -0.5   |

Note: In addition to the above items, new expenditure deferrals and recissions will be proposed to hold fiscal 1975 expenditures below \$300 billion.

<sup>\*</sup> For fiscal 1975, this assumes that a 6 percent unemployment rate triggers the program into effect on Mar. 1, 1975. Note, however, that the total expenditures for this program in fiscal 1975 will be \$0.9 billion; \$0.8 billion is already included in earlier budget estimates. For fiscal 1976, this assumes that the unemployment rate falls below 6 percent and thus triggers an end to payments as of December 31, 1975. \*\*Minimum tax on income and limitation on accounting losses.

#### TAX PROPOSALS

## Surcharge

## 1. Corporations

A 5 percent corporate tax surcharge will be imposed effective January 1, 1975, and continuing through December 1975. The surcharge will be computed by multiplying the corporate tax (before credits against tax, but including the additional tax for tax preferences) by 5 percent. For corporations with taxable years ending in 1975 or beginning in 1975 and ending after 1975, the surcharge will be computed on a pro rata basis according to the number of days of the taxable year in 1975.

## 2. Individuals

A 5 percent individual tax surcharge will also be imposed for 1975 on income tax liabilities attributable to income above an upper income threshold.

In general, the proposal is designed to exclude from surcharge families with adjusted gross incomes below \$15,000 and single persons with adjusted gross incomes below \$7,500. However, because income tax liabilities are based on "taxable income" rather than "adjusted gross income," it is necessary to translate, on some average basis, the \$15,000 and \$7,500 into comparable "taxable income" figures. That was done as follows:

|   | Families                  | Single<br>persons |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Adjusted gross income<br>Standard deduction<br>Exemptions (assuming<br>4 for families | \$15,000<br>-2,000        | \$7,500<br>-1,300 |
| 1 for single person)  | $\frac{-3,000}{\$10,000}$ | - 750<br>\$5,450  |

Thus, the surcharge will be expressed technically as a surcharge on tax liabilities attributable to that portion of the taxpayer's "taxable income" in excess of the \$10,000 or \$5,450, as the case may be. Not all taxpayers have the same deductions and exemptions as those assumed above. For

example, there will be married taxpayers with more exemptions and deductions than those assumed, who will pay no surcharge even though their adjusted gross incomes are somewhat greater than \$15,000. Conversely, some with fewer exemptions may pay surtax even though their adjusted gross incomes are somewhat less than \$15,000.

The computation is straightforward. The taxpayer (1) computes his regular tax, (2) subtracts from that the amount of tax applicable to either his \$10,000 or his \$5,450 exemption, and (3) then multiplies the balance by 5 percent. For example, a family of four filing a joint return and having \$20,000 of taxable income would calculate a regular tax of \$4,380 and subtract from that \$1,820 (the tax on the first \$10,000) to arrive at \$2,560 which is subject to the 5 percent surcharge of \$128. A single person with \$10,000 of taxable income would calculate a regular tax of \$2,090 and subtract from that \$994.50 (the tax on the first \$5,450) to arrive at \$1,095.50, which is subject to the 5 percent surcharge of \$54.78.

## Investment Tax Credit

The proposal to change the investment tax credit has three principal parts: (1) the elimination of existing limitations and restrictions on the credit which tend to discriminate unfairly between the types of taxpayers and investments which qualify for the credit, (2) an increase in the rate of the present credit from 7 percent to 10 percent, and (3) making the credit a reduction in basis for depreciation purposes.

#### 1. Present law

An amount equal to 7 percent of the cost of qualifying property (generally, tangible personal property used in a trade or business) may be offset directly against income tax liability, with the following limitations based on the expected useful life of the property:

| Useful Life      | Percent of cost of property qualifying for credit |
|------------------|---|
| 0-3 years        | 0   |
| 3-5 years        | 33-1/3  |
| 5-7 years        | 66-2/3  |
| 7 years and over | 100   |

Public utility property qualifies for only a 4 percent credit (The Ways and Means Committee has tentatively decided to remove this limitation).

The maximum credit which may be claimed in a taxable year is limited to \$25,000 plus one-half of the excess of tax liability over \$25,000.

Excess credits (limited by the above provision) may generally be carried back three taxable years and forward seven taxable years, after which they expire if still unused.

## 2. Proposed changes

Increase the rate from 7 percent to 10 percent. This will increase cash flow for all companies in the immediate future. It will be offset in future years by lesser depreciation deductions.

Eliminate the limitations based on useful life so that all property with a life in excess of three years will qualify for the full credit.

Eliminate the discrimination against public utility property so that it will qualify for the full rate and otherwise be treated the same as other qualifying property.

Replace the present limit on the maximum credit which may be claimed with eventual full refundability for the excess of credits over tax liability. Credits in excess of the present limitations may be carried back three years and then to the succeeding three years to offset tax liability, after which time any remaining excess credits will be refunded directly to the taxpayers. This will

- -- Help growing companies which have present investments which are large in comparison with their current incomes.
- -- Help companies in financial difficulties, which get no benefit from credit because they have little or no income tax liability against which to apply it.

-- Help small businesses, which under present law are more severely affected by the restrictions and limitations.

The three-year rule postpones adverse budget impact until revenues from basis adjustment are sufficient to offset revenue loss from this refundable feature.

Require the taxpayer to reduce the cost of qualifying property for depreciation purposes by the amount of the investment tax credit. This makes the credit neutral with respect to long-lived and short-lived assets and removes the present discrimination against long-lived assets.

Retain the present \$50,000 per year limitation on qualifying used property.

## Deduction for Dividends Paid on Certain Preferred Stock

To encourage expansion of corporate equity capital and increase the effectiveness of capital markets, it is proposed that dividends paid on qualified preferred stock be allowed as a deduction to the payor corporation. The provisions of the Internal Revenue Code providing for exclusions for dividends received by corporations would not be applicable to these dividends.

The deduction would only be available for cash dividends paid on preferred stock issued after December 31, 1974, for cash or pre-existing bona fide debt of the issuing corporation. For these purposes, preferred stock would be required to be non-voting, limited and preferred as to dividends and entitled to a liquidating preference. The intention to qualify preferred stock under this new provision of the Internal Revenue Code would be required to be clearly indicated at the time the stock was issued.

## The Tax Reform Bill

## 1. Low-income taxpayer relief

We support the Tax Reform bill now pending in the Ways and Means Committee. It provides about \$1.4 billion of tax

relief for individuals with incomes of less than \$15,000. In addition, the Tax Reform bill would produce a long-term revenue gain of about \$500 to \$600 million per year beginning in FY 1976 and we support using those revenues when received also to provide further income tax reductions for lower income families.

The principal individual tax reductions provided in the bill are increases in the minimum standard deduction, the standard deduction and the retirement income credit and a new simplification deduction which for most taxpayers will be larger than the miscellaneous, hard-to-compute deductions which it would replace.

The tax reductions in the bill are made possible primarily by revenues gained from tax reform measures and by increased taxes on oil producers. The tax reform proposals are based on Treasury proposals advanced a year and a half ago. The two main features are: (1) a minimum tax, designed to ensure that all taxpayers pay some reasonable amount of tax on their economic income, and (2) a provision (known as "LAL, i.e., limitation on artificial accounting losses) designed to eliminate tax shelter devices under which tax is avoided through the deduction of artificial losses which are not real losses.

In December 1973, the Treasury proposed a windfall profits tax on oil, which is now incorporated in the Tax Reform bill in modified form. The Committee has also provided for the phase-out over three years of percentage depletion on oil and gas.

The Committee bill raises less revenue from tax reform and oil taxes for calendar years 1974 and 1975 than the Treasury proposed. The Treasury hopes that Congress will restore some of the reform which the Treasury proposed. However, it is most important that tax reform and tax reduction legislation be enacted as promptly as possible and the Administration will support the bill in its present form.

## 2. Savings and investment proposals

Greater productivity in the next several years will be critical in winding down the wage-price spiral. That will require major new investments.

The Tax Reform bill now pending makes an important contribution by (i) bringing the investment credit for utilities up to the credit generally applicable for other industries,

(ii) liberalizing the treatment of capital gains and losses, and (iii) eliminating U.S. withholding tax on foreign portfolio investments, thus encouraging investment by foreigners in the United States.

## Tax Exemption for Interest on Savings Accounts

Various proposals have been made to exempt interest on savings accounts. We do not support any such proposal for reasons which include the following:

- (1) It would initially decrease the aggregate amount of saving. A \$750 exemption for interest on time and savings deposits would cost about \$2 billion, which the government would have to borrow in the private market to make up. That borrowing reduces the amount of savings available for private investment.
- (2) It would not be effective. It would not substantially increase savings deposits because the tax exemption would not be a major benefit to most taxpayers. For a taxpayer in the 25 percent bracket, exemption would make a 5.25 percent account equivalent to a 7 percent taxable account, which is still considerably below the rates available elsewhere. Only high-bracket taxpayers would get major benefits.
- (3) Passbook savings may increase some, but total savings will not increase. The principal effect would be some switching. It doesn't operate as an incentive for new savings because it doesn't reward the increase in savings.
- (4) It would create new distortions in the credit and investment markets.

## CITIZENS' ACTION COMMITTEE TO FIGHT INFLATION

The following Citizens have already agreed to help organize and support a voluntary private sector effort to mobilize all Americans in the fight against inflation:

| MAYOR JOSEPH ALIOTO of San Francisco | Chairman, U. S. Conference of Mayors                        |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ARCH BOOTH                           | President, Chamber of Commerce of the United States         |
| RUSSELL W. FREEBURG                  | White House Coordinator                                     |
| DAVID L. HALE                        | President, United States Jaycees                            |
| MRS. LILLIE HERNDON                  | President, National Congress of Parents and Teachers        |
| ROBERT P. KEIM                       | President, The Advertising Council                          |
| MRS. CARROLL E. MILLER               | President, General Federation of Women's Clubs              |
| WILLIAM J. MEYER                     | President, Central Sprinkler Co.<br>Landsdale, Pennsylvania |
| GEORGE MYERS                         | President, Consumer Federation of America                   |
| RALPH NADER                          | Private Citizen   |
| LEO PERLIS                           | Director of Community Service, AFL-CIO                      |
| SYLVIA PORTER                        | National Syndicated Columnist                               |
| GOVERNOR CALVIN RAMPTON of Utah      | Chairman, National Governors<br>Conference                  |
| STANFORD SMITH                       | President, American Newspaper<br>Publishers Association     |
| FRANK STANTON                        | Chairman, American National<br>Red Cross                    |
| ROGER FELLOWS                        | 4-H, University of Minnesota                                |

VINCENT T. WASILEWSKI

President, National Association of Broadcasters

ROY WILKINS

Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

DOUGLAS WOODRUFF

Executive Director, American Association of Retired Persons

Office of the White House Press Secretary

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

## TEXT OF AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO BE DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, distinguished guests and my very dear friends:

In his first inaugural address, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "The people of the United States have not failed ... They want direct, vigorous action ... They have asked for discipline and direction under leadership."

Today, though our economic difficulties do not approach the emergency of 1933, the message from the American people is the same. I trust you are getting the same message: Our constituents want leadership and action.

All of us have heard much talk on this very floor about Congress recovering its rightful share of national leadership. I now intend to offer you that chance.

The 73rd Congress responded to FDR's appeal in five days.

I am deeply grateful for the cooperation of the 93rd Congress in the Conference on Inflation which ended 10 days ago. Mr. Speaker, many -- but not all -- of your recommendations on behalf of your party's Caucus are reflected in some of my proposals. The distinguished Majority Leader of the Senate offered a nine-point program. I seriously studied all and adopted some of his suggestions.

I might add I have also listened hard to my many other former colleagues in both bodies and of both the majority and minority, and have been both persuaded and dissuaded. But in the end I had to decide, as each of you do when the roll is called.

I will not take your time today with a discussion of the origins of inflation and its bad effect on the United States. I know where we want to be in 1976 -- on the 200th Birthday of a United States of America that has not lost its way, nor its will, nor its sense of national purpose.

During the meetings on inflation, I listened carefully to the many valuable proposals offered. Since the summit, I have evaluated hundreds of ideas, day and night.

My conclusions are simply stated. There is only one point on which all advisers agree: We must whip inflation now.

None of the remedies proposed -- great or small, compulsory or voluntary -- stands a chance umless they are combined in a considered package, in a concerted effort, in a grand design.

I have reviewed the past and present effort of our Federal Government to help the economy. They are simply not good enough, nor sufficiently broad, nor do they pack the punch that will turn on America's economy.

A stable American economy cannot be sustained if the world's economy is in chaos. International cooperation is essential. But while we seek agreement with other nations, let us put our own economic house in order.

Today, I have identified 10 areas for our joint action.

## NUMBER ONE: FOOD

America is the world's champion producer of food. Food prices and petroleum prices in the United States are primary inflationary factors. America today partially depends on foreign sources for petroleum. But we can grow more than enough food for ourselves.

To halt higher food prices, we must produce more food. I call upon every farmer to produce to full capacity. This Government will do all in its power to assure him he can sell his entire yield at reasonable prices. Accordingly, I ask the Congress to remove all remaining acreage limitations on rice, peanuts and cotton.

I also assure America's farmers here and now that I will allocate all the fuel and ask authority to allocate all fertilizer they need to do the job.

Agricultural marketing orders and other Federal regulations are being reviewed to eliminate or modify those responsible for inflated prices.

I have directed our new Council on Wage and Price stability to find and expose all restrictive practices, public or private, which raise food prices.

The Administration will also monitor food production, margins, pricing and exports. We can and shall have adequate supplies at home, and through cooperation, meet the needs of our trading partners abroad. Over this past weekend, we initiated a voluntary program to monitor grain exports. The Economic Policy Board will be responsible for determining the policy under this program. In addition, in order to better allocate our supplies for export, I ask that a provision be added to Public Law 480, under which we ship food to needy and friendly countries. I need authority to waive certain of the restrictions on shipments based on national interest or humanitarian grounds.

#### NUMBER TWO: ENERGY.

America's future depends heavily on oil, gas, coal, electricity, and other resources called energy. Make no mistake -- we have a real energy problem. One-third of our oil -- 17 percent of America's total energy -- now comes from foreign sources we cannot control -- at high cartel prices costing you and me \$16 billion more than just a year ago.

The primary solution has to be at home. If you've forgotten the shortages of last winter, I have not.

I have ordered today the reorganization of our national energy effort and the creation of a National Energy Board. It will be charged with developing a single national energy policy and program.

You will ge glad to know that our former colleague, Rog Morton, Secretary of the Interior, will be the overall boss of our national energy program. His marching orders are to reduce imports of foreign oil by one million barrels per day by the end of 1975, whether by savings here at home or by increasing our own sources.

Secretary Morton also is charged with increasing our domestic energy supply by promptly utilizing coal resources and expanding recovery of domestic oil still in the ground in old wells.

New legislation will be sought after your recess to require use of cleaner coal processes and nuclear fuel in new electric plants and the quick conversion of existing oil plants. I propose that we together set a target date of 1980 for eliminating oil-fired plants from the Nation's base-loaded electrical capacity.

I will use the existing Defense Production Act to allocate scarce materials for energy development and I will ask you for whatever amendments prove necessary. I will meet with top management of the automobile industry to assure -- either by agreement or by law -- a firm program aimed at achieving a 40 percent increase in gasoline mileage within a four year development deadline.

Priority legislative action to increase energy supply requires:

- (1) long sought deregulation of natural gas supplies,
- (2) responsible use of our Naval petroleum reserves in California and Alaska,
- (3) amendments to the Clean Air Act, and
- (4) passage of surface mining legislation to ensure adequate supply with common sense environmental protection.

If all these steps fail to meet our current energy-saving goals, I will not hesitate to ask for tougher measures.

For the long-range, we must work harder on coal gasification. We must push with renewed vigor and talent research in the use of non-fossil fuels. The power of the atom, the heat of the sun and steam stored deep in the earth, the force of winds and water must be main sources of energy for our grand-children.

## NUMBER THREE: RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES.

To increase productivity and contain prices, we must end restrictive practices whether instituted by Government, industry, labor or others.

I am determined to return to the vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws.

My Administration will zero in on more effective enforcement of laws against price-fixing and bid-rigging. For instance, non-competitive professional fee schedules and real estate settlement fees must be eliminated. Such violations will be prosecuted by the Department of Justice to the full extent of the law.

I ask the Congress for prompt authority to increase maximum penalties for anti-trust violations from \$50,000 to \$1 million for corporations and from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for individual violators.

At the Congerence on Inflation, we found broad agreement that the Federal Government imposes too many hidden and inflationary costs on our economy. As a result, I propose a four-point purging process:

- 1. I have ordered my Council on Wage and Price Stability to be the watchdog over inflationary costs of all governmental actions.
- 2. I ask the Congress to establish a National Commission on Regulatory Reform to undertake a long-overdue total re-examination of the independent regulatory agencies. It will be a joint effort by the Congress, the Executive Branch and the private sector to identify and eliminate existing Federal rules and regulations that increase costs to the consumer, without good reason, in today's economic climate.
- 3. Hereafter, I will require that all major legislative proposals, regulations, and rules emanating from the Executive Branch include an Inflation Impact Statement that certifies we have carefully weighed their effect on inflation. I respectfully request that Congress require similar advance Inflation Impact Statements for its own legislative initiatives.
- 4. Finally, I urge State and local governments to undertake similar programs to reduce inflationary effects of their regulatory activities.

I thank the Congress for recently revitalizing the National Council on Productivity. It will initially concentrate on problems of productivity in government -- Federal, State and local. Outside of government, it will develop meaningful blueprints for labor-mangement cooperation at the plant level. It should look particularly at the construction and health service industries.

The Council on Wage and Price Stability will of course monitor wage and price practices in the private sector. Monitoring will include public hearings to justify either price or wage increases.

I emphasize this is not a compulsory wage and price control agency.

I know many Americans see Federal controls as the answer. But controls never really stop inflation -- not the last time -- not even during and immediately after World War II when, as I remember, prices rose despite severe and enforceable wartime rationing.

Peacetime controls actually create shortages, hamper production, stifle growth and limit jobs. I do not ask for such powers, however tempting politically, as such a program could cause the fixer and the black marketeer to flourish while decent citizens face empty shelves and stand in long waiting lines.

## NUMBER FOUR: WE NEED MORE CAPITAL

We cannot "eat up our seed corn." Our free enterprise system depends on orderly capital markets through which the savings of our people become productively used. Today our capital markets are in disarray. We must restore their vitality. Prudent monetary restraint is essential.

You and the American people should know, however, that I have personally been assured by the Chairman of the independent Federal Reserve Board that the supply of money and credit will expand sufficiently to meet the needs of our economy, and that, in no event, will a credit crunch occur.

The prime lending rate is going down.

To help industry to buy more machines and create more jobs, I am recommending a liberalized ten percent investment tax credit. This credit should be especially helpful to capital-intensive industries, such as primary metals and public utilities where capacity shortages have developed.

I am asking Congress to enact tax legislation to provide that all dividends on preferred stocks, issued for cash be fully deductible by the issuing company. This should bring in more capital -- especially for energy-producing utilities. It will also help other industries shift from debt to equity, providing sounder capital structure.

Capital gains taxation must be liberalized as proposed by the tax reform bill currently before the Committee on Ways and Means. I endorse this approach and hope you will pass it promptly.

#### NUMBER FIVE: HELPING THE CASUALTIES

The Conference on Inflation made everybody even more aware of who is suffering most from inflation. Foremost are those who are jobless through no fault of their own. Three weeks ago, I released funds which, with earlier actions, provide public service employment for 170,000 who need work. I now propose to the Congress a two-step program to augment this action.

First, 13 weeks of special unemployment insurance benefits would be provided to those who have exhausted their regular and extended unemployment insurance benefits and 26 weeks of special unemployment insurance benefits to those who qualify but are not now covered by a regular unemployment insurance program. Funding would come from the general treasury, not from taxes on employers as is the case with the established programs.

- 6 -Second, I ask the Congress to create a brand-new Community Improvement Corps to provide work for the unemployed through short-term useful work projects to improve, beautify and enhance the environment of our cities, towns, and countryside. This standby program would come alive whenever unemployment exceeds six percent nationally. It would be stopped when unemployment drops below six percent. Local labor markets would each qualify for grants whenever their unemployment rate exceeded 6.5 percent. State and local government contractors would supervise these projects and could hire only those who had exhausted their unemployment insurance The goal of this new program is to provide more constructive work for Americans -- young or old -- who cannot find a job. Short-term problems require short-term remedies. I therefore request that these programs be for one year. I know that low and middle-income Americans have been hardest hit by inflation. Their budgets are most vulnerable because a larger part of their income goes for the highly-inflated costs of food, fuel, and medical care. The tax reform bill now in the House Committee on Ways and Means,

which I favor, already provides approximately \$1.6 billion of tax relief to these groups. Compensating new revenues are provided in this prospective legislation by a windfall profits tax on oil producers and by closing other loopholes. If enacted, this will be a major contribution by the Congress in our common effort to make our tax system fairer to all.

## NUMBER SIX: STIMULATING HOUSING

Without question, credit is the lifeblood of housing.

The United States is suffering the longest and most severe housing recession since the end of World War II. Unemployment in the construction trades is twice the national average.

One of my first acts as President was to sign the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. I have since concluded that still more help is needed--help that can be delivered quickly and with minimum inflationary impact.

I urge the Congress to enact, before your recess, additional legislation to make most home mortgages eligible for purchase by an agency of the Federal Government. As the law now stands, only FHA or VA home mortgages, one fifth of the total, are covered. I am glad that the Senate, thanks to the leadership of Senator Brooke and Senator Cranston, has already made substantial progress on this legislation. As soon as it comes to me, I will make at least 3 billion dollars immediately available for mortgage purchases, enough to finance about 100,000 homes.

## NUMBER SEVEN: THRIFT INSTITUTIONS

Savings and loan and similar institutions are hard hit by inflation and high interest rates. They no longer attract adequate deposits. The Executive Branch must join with the Congress in giving critically needed attention to the structure and operation of our thrift institutions which now find themselves for the third time in eight years in another period of serious mortgage credit scarcity.

Passage of the pending Financial Institution Bill will help. But no single measure has yet appeared to solve feast or famine in mortgage credit. However, I promise to work with you to develop additional specific programs in the future.

## NUMBER EIGHT: INTERNATIONAL INTERDEPENDENCY

The United States has a responsibility not only to maintain a healthy economy at home but also to seek policies which complement, rather than disrupt, the constructive efforts of others.

Essential to U.S. initiatives is the early passage of an acceptable Trade Reform Bill. My Special Representative for Trade Negotiations departed earlier this afternoon to Canada, Europe and Japan to brief foreign friends on my proposals. We live in an interdependent world and therefore must work together to resolve common economic problems.

## NUMBER NINE: FEDERAL TAXES AND SPENDING

To support programs to increase production and share inflation-produced hardships, we need additional tax revenues. I am aware that any proposal for new taxes just four weeks before a national election is -- to put it mildly -- considered politically unwise. I have been earnestly advised to wait and talk about taxes anytime after November 5th.

But I will not play politics with America's future.

Our present inflation to a considerable degree comes from many years of enacting expensive programs without raising enough new reveneus to pay for them. Nineteen out of the 25 years I served in this Chamber ended up with federal deficits.

By now almost everybody else has stated my position on Federal gasoline taxes. This time I'll do it myself. I am not asking you for any increase in gas taxes.

I am asking you to approve a one-year temporary tax surcharge of five percent on corporate and upper-level individual incomes. This would generally exclude from the surcharge those families with gross incomes below \$15,000 a year. The estimated \$5 billion in extra revenue to be raised by this Inflation Fighting tax should pay for all the new programs I have recommended in this message. This is the acid test of our joint determination to whip inflation. I would not ask this if major loopholes were not being closed by the Ways and Means Tax Reform Bill.

I urge you to join me before your recess by voting to set a target spending limit of \$300 billion for the Federal fiscal 1975 budget. When Congress agrees t this spending target, I will submit a package of budget deferrals and recissions to meet this goal. I will do the tough job of designating for Congressional action, on your return, those areas which I believe can and must be reduced. These will be hard choices but no federal agency, including the Defense Department, will be untouchable.

Fiscal discipline is a necessary weapon in any fight against inflation. While this spending target is a small step, it is a start in the right direction. And we need to get on that course without further delay.

We cannot ask the American people to tighten their belts if Uncle Sam is unwilling to first tighten his.

And now, if I might, I would like to say a few words directly to your constituents and to mine.

My Fellow Americans:

Ten days ago I asked you to get things started by making a list of 10 ways to fight inflation and save energy, to exchange your list with neighbors and to send me a copy. I have personally read scores of the thousands of letters received at the White House.

And I have made my economic experts read them, too. We all benefitted -- at least I did. I thank each and every one of you.

Some of the good ideas from your home to mine have been cranked into the recommendations I have just made to the Congress and the steps I am taking as President to whip inflation now. There were also firm warnings on what government must not do.

Your best suggestions for voluntary restraint and self-discipline showed me that a great degree of patriotic determination and unanimity already exists in this country.

I have asked Congress for urgent specific actions it alone can take.

I have advised Congress of the initial steps I am taking as President.

Here's what only you can do. Unless every able American pitches in, Congress and I cannot do the job.

Winning our fight against inflation and waste involves total mobilization of America's greatest resources -- the brains, the skills and willpower of the American people.

Here is what we must do ... what each and everyone of you can do.

To help increase food and lower prices, GROW MORE, WASTE LESS.

To help save scarce fuel in the energy crisis, DRIVE LESS, HEAT LESS.

Every housewife knows almost exactly how much she spent for food last week. If you can't spare a penny from your food budget, surely you can cut the food you waste by 5%.

Every American motorist knows almost exactly how many miles he or she drives to work or school every day and about how much mileage she or he runs up each year. If we all drive at least 5% fewer miles we can save 250 to 300 thousand barrels of foreign oil per day. By the end of 1975, most of us can do much better than 5% by car pooling, taking the bus, riding bikes or just plain walking. We can have saved enough gas by self-discipline to meet our 1 million barrel per day goal.

There is one final thing that all Americans can do, rich or poor, and that is Share With Others.

We can share burdens as well as blessings. Sharing is not as easy to measure as mileage and family budgets, but I'm sure that 5% more is not nearly enough to ask. So I ask you to share everything you can -- and a little bit more -- and it will strengthen our spirits as well as our economy.

Today I will not take more of the time of this busy Congress -- for I remember well the rush before every recess-- and the clock is already running on my specific and urgent requests for legislative action. I also remember how much Congress can get done when it wants to.

One week from tonight I have a long-standing invitation to Kansas City to address the Future Farmers of America, a fine organization of young people whose help, with millions of others, is vital in this battle. I will elaborate then on how volunteer Inflation Fighters and Energy Savers can further mobilize their total efforts.

Since asking Miss Sylvia Porter, the well-known financial writer, to help me organize an all-out nationwide volunteer mobilization, I have named a White House Coordinator and have enlisted the enthusiastic support and services of some 17 other distinguished Americans to help plan for citizen and private group participation. There will be no big new Federal bureaucracy set up for this crash program.

Through the courtesy of such volunteers from the communications and media fields a simple enlistment form will appear in many of tomorrow's newspapers along with the symbol of this new mobilization, which I am wearing on my lapel.

It bears the single word "WIN." That tells it all. I will call upon every American to join this massive mobilization and to stick with it until we win. For win we will.

I stand on a spot hallowed by history. Many Presidents have come here many times to solicit, to scold, to flatter and to exhort the Congress to support them in their leadership. Once in a great while, Presidents have stood here and truly inspired this most skeptical and sophisticated audience of their co-equal partners in government. Perhaps once or twice in a generation is there such a joint session. I do not expect this to be one.

Only two of my predecessors have come in person to call upon the Congress for a declaration of war. I shall not do that. But I say to you with all sincerity that inflation, our present public enemy will -- unless it is whipped -- destroy our country, our homes, our liberties, our property, and finally our national pride -- as surely as any well-armed wartime enemy.

There will be no sudden Pearl Harbor to shock us into unity and sacrifice. But we have had enough early warnings. The time to intercept is almost gone. My friends and former colleagues, will you enlist now? My friends and fellow Americans, will you enlist now?

Together, with discipline and determination, we will win. Under the Constitution, only the President can provide the essential leadership for great national undertakings. I accept it. With your help and God's, we will win.

## ## ##

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS:

WIN coupon on front page (with no address to send it to. full front page of headlines on speech, including "what you can do". Cahill column: Ford has botten bullet, at least nibbled. No editorial. Lead econ story headline "Ford Lists the Bullets to Bite".

CHICAGO TRIBUNE:

Lead hedline: "Ford's Plan: 5% Surtax.

energy, spending curbs"

(early edition, no columns or editorials)

Neikirk lead: surtax, then "proposal expected

to get cool reception in Cong."
Also notes Ways and Means passed housing tax bill (\$1.8B) that

Admin. opposes.

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Lead headline:

Down the Middle: Ford's Economic Plans Reflect Compromises, Lack Bold

(no editorial)

Measures Subhead: "BITING THE MARSHMALLOW"

Congressional story headed: Ford Tax Proposals Face Uphill Fight in Congress: Reaction Is Chilly to Surtax on Individuals; Package Called Business Bonanza.

BALTIMORE SUN: Headline: Ford Asks 5% business, individual subtax;

Congress to act quickly: Democrats critical

subhead: Tax Plan Appears periled

analysis story: Ford's Bullet-Biting Talk

Yields to Desire for Votes

inside (p8) reaction story: Businessmen Sold on Ford's Plan; Economists Skeptical. However

EDITORIAL: The President's 'Grand Design

If inflation No. 1 enemy, Ford plan makes it clear recession No. 2. While plan reasonably responsive to inflation and recession. 'same can not be said for...the paltry energy program he offered.'...But Mr. Ford did opt for action instead of waiting until after election ... for this he deserves credit even tho there should be no pretense Cong. or Nation will swallow his package whole.'

WASHINGTON POST: P1 Heads: Ford Asks 5 Per Cent Surtax

Would Aid Poor, Calls for Cuts in Business Levies

Gas Tax, Pay-Price Curb Sidestepped

EDITORIAL: The Economics of Consensus

Post Editm says plan is cautious forst draft of a policy; there is going to have to be more to it. Surtax plan 5 wks before election, but no gas tax to save fuel is "ironic commentary" on our values. If no energy tax, Post says surtax is next best. Most important part of speech passed over fast because no one likes to mem appear to meddle with Fed. Post glad mention of FDR Inaugural doesn't find us in same state--US prosperous, but less so than accustomed to. Answer is more hard decisions than are reflected in consensus message.

NEW YORK TIMES:

Heads:

Ford Proposes A Reduction in Oil Imports; Anti-Inflation Plan Also Asks Tax Rises; Personal and Business, With Aid for Poor

Congress is Cool

A Call For Action

Criticism in 2 parties focuses on plans for 5% surtax

In Talk To Congress, the President Urges Americans to Help

EDITORIAL: What Leadership?

Ford chose poor parallel (FDR in '33) because kix
US does need 'leadership, action', but Ford program
in striking--and unflattering--contrast to FDR's.
After saying "we do have a real energy problem"
energy portion was "all downhill from there'.
Attitude on taxes remarkably cautious despite
surtax plan. Lattle of rumored relief for poor.
Some good plans, but 'individual merits' do not
offset central weakness of programm.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 10, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mary Burns

Chief Operator

White House Switchboard

Gladys Evans

Chief Operator

Executive Office Switchboard

Signal Board Operators

White House Communications Agency

SUBJECT:

WIN (Whip Inflation Now) Program

All telephone inquiries with respect to the WIN Program should be referred to 456-6466, which is on a four-line rotary.

The coordinator of the President's WIN Program is Russell W. Freeburg, and he and his staff are located in Room 3204 New Executive Office Building.

Attached is a list of telephone numbers for the staff. Please note that the only number to be released to the public is 456-6466.

Frank R. Pagnotta

cc: Mr. Robert W. Hartmann

Mr. Russell W. Freeburg

Mr. Jerry Jones (for dissemination to Mail Room, etc.)

# Telephone Listing for the WIN Office 3204 New Executive Office Building

| Freeburg, Russell W. Coordinator | 456-6577) Private<br>456-6578) Lines          | SC 27 |
|----------------------------------|---|-------|
| (Can pick up on all other lines: | 456-2778<br>456-2865<br>456-6466<br>456-6469) |       |
| Higgins, Barbara                 | 456-2878) Private<br>456-2865) Lines          | SC 28 |
| (Can pick up on all other lines: | 456-6577<br>456-6578<br>456-6466<br>456-6469) |       |
| Wilson, Joann L.                 | 456-2878 (Private<br>Line)                    | SC 22 |
| (Can pick up on:                 | 456-6466<br>456-6469)                         |       |
| 3203 New Executove Offi          | ce Building *                                 |       |
|                                  | 456-2865 (Private<br>Line)                    | SC 26 |
| 3202 New Executive Office        | ce Building *                                 |       |
| 2201 New Eve outive Offi         | 456-2770 (Private<br>Line)                    | SC 25 |
| 3201 New Executive Office        | ce building                                   |       |
|                                  | 456-2170 (Private<br>Line)                    | SC 20 |

<sup>\*</sup> All of the telephones presently hooked up in Rooms 3201, 3202 and 3203 can pick up on the rotary lines 456-6466/7/8/9

#### SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Depletion Allowance

After reviewing the transcript of yesterday's news conference, the President asked me to state more precisely his position on the oil depletion allowance.

As long as the price of oil continues to be controlled, the President believes that the elimination of the percentage depletion on domestic oil production would be a mistake. The President feels that oil should be sold on a free market basis and he thinks that many oil producers would be glad to trade percentage depletion away to achieve the important result of a free market for oil.

FYE

The President prefers his own windfall profits tax in place of eliminating the percentage depletion on domestic production. This is precisely what Secretary Simon testified to yesterday at the Ways and Means Committee hearings. However, the President does endorse the tax reform bill as a whole because it contains many provisions which are good and which far outweigh those provisions which he does not favor, including the immediate phase-out of the domestic depletion allowance, and he told you that at his news conference yesterday.

## Depletion Allowance (cont.)

As for the foreign oil depletion allowance, the President believes that should be phased out immediately and finally and that is really what he meant when he gave the flat "yes" to a question at the news conference.

## SURTAX

For the vast majority of surtaxpayers, a one-percentage point reduction in the inflation rate will more than recover the surtax -- in fact, by three to four times.

The President annoused today the formation of a new Economic Policy Board which will oversee the formulation, coordination and emplementation of all economic policy, and named Secretary of the Treasury, William E. Simon, as chairman.

Secretary Simon will act as the principal spokesman for the Executive Branch on matters of economic policy. The new Board will be the focal point for economic policy decision-making, both domestic and international. Secretary Simon will also chair an Executive Committee of the Board which will meet daily.

The President also announced the appointment of L. William Seidman as Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs. In addition to a wide range of other duties, Mr. Seidman will serve as a member and Executive Director of the Economic Policy Board and its Executive Committee. In his new roles, Mr. Seidman will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of economic policy and providing liaison with the Presidential staff and with other governmental activities.

Secretary Simonand Mr. Seidman will have responsibility for ensuring that there is adequate coordination among existing and proposed committees relating to economic policy. Secretary Simon will serve as Chairman, and Mr. Seidman as Deputy Chairman, of the Council on Wage and Price Stability as well as the Council on International Economic Policy, the National Advisory Council on International Economic Policy, the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies, and the President's Committee on East-West Trade Policy.

The other members of the Economic Policy Board will be:

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz Secretary of Commerce Frederick B. Dent Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Caspar W. Weinberger Secretary of Housing and Urban Development James T. Lynn

Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar

Director of the Office of Management and Budget Roy L. Ash Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers Alan Greenspan Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy

William D. Eberle

Mr. Greenspan, Mr. Eberle, and a senior member of the Office of Management and Budget, will serve as member of the Executive Committee. Dr. Arthur F. Burns, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, will attend both Board and Executive Committee meetings when appropriate.

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 10, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN

Attached is a memorandum from Secretary Simon with respect to your comments on oil depletion at the Press Conference October 9. The Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board met this morning and would amend the suggested position as follows:

It is the President's view that oil depletion and domestic production can be eliminated when the price of oil is no longer controlled and we return to a free market. It will be important to coordinate a phase out of oil depletion with the plan for a return to a free market in oil production.

This substantially adopts the position given in the last paragraph of the attached memorandum.

Ron Nessen will need to be briefed on your position before the 11:30 press briefing today.

In revery transcript the Printent

The Preso Conference, the Jolling

clarfication



## The Administration's Position on Elimination of Percentage Depletion

Throughout the sessions of the Ways and Means Committee on the tax reform bill, the Treasury said that the Administration did not favor the elimination of percentage depletion. The reasons we gave were:

- 1. The proposed windfall profits tax provides a much better solution to the immediate problem of recapturing windfall profits of oil producers. It would collect substantial revenues in a way that would not disrupt the search for new oil. It would not inhibit present investments because the tax would gradually disappear leaving producers with competitive free market prices by the time those investments became productive.
- 2. The elimination of percentage depletion would disrupt the structure of industry operations and financing which would be particularly counterproductive given the current energy problem.
- 3. History indicates that most of the benefits of percentage depletion have been passed through to consumers in the form of lower oil prices. It is primarily a subsidy to consumers of oil rather than to producers of oil. Its elimination would ultimately raise the long-term supply price of domestic oil. The long-term supply price is the price at which a desired quantity will be produced. It was the Treasury estimate that, given a period of several years, a \$7 a barrel price (1974 levels) would be sufficient to elicit sufficient domestic oil production to satisfy 85 percent of our domestic needs. If percentage depletion were eliminated, our estimate of the long-term supply price would have to rise to \$8.40 because that is the amount, without percentage depletion, which would leave producers with the same net return as a \$7 price with percentage depletion.
- 4. The elimination of percentage depletion so far as "controlled oil" is concerned would be equivalent to a price roll-back. We believe that a price roll-back would be very counterproductive in solving the energy problem.

Secretary Simon's Responses Concerning Percentage Depletion at the Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday, October 9, 1974

In response to questions as to whether the Administration supports the phasing out of oil depletion provisions in the Tax Reform bill, Secretary Simon replied about as follows:

Overall--all things considered--the bill is a good bill, with many good provisions. Obviously, in an imperfect world, the Administration can't have everything exactly the way it wants.

Given that pragmatic problem, the Administration supports the bill even with its provisions ending oil depletion allowances.

However, if 'we could have our druthers' we would prefer the windfall profits approach which we proposed and we would want to retain oil depletion as a 'carrot that helps produce revenues needed by men searching for oil.'

## Suggested modification of the President's Press Conference

My response to the question of whether the oil depletion allowance should be phased out is regrettably ambiguous and should be read in the context of the question asked immediately prior.

It is my view that the <u>foreign</u> depletion allowance should be phased out immediately and finally. And that is what I had primarily in mind. The tax reform bill so provides and I support that provision completely.

As to domestic percentage depletion, I would prefer a bill substituting the Administration's windfall profits tax for the elimination of the percentage depletion. However, I do endorse the tax reform bill as a whole because it contains many things which are good and which far outweigh the things which we would prefer be different.

So long as the price of oil continues to be controlled, I think the elimination of percentage depletion on domestic production would be a mistake. We ought to get oil back on a free market basis. I suspect many oil producers would be glad to trade percentage depletion away to achieve that important result.

### Page 9

QUESTION: This morning, Secretary Simon indicated that the Administration was still supporting oil depletion allowances. You, yesterday, endorsed the Ways and Means package which calls for the phase-out of oil depletion allowances. How do you reconcile your speech and Secretary Simon's testimony this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that bill before the Committee on Ways and Means has a number of very good features and it has some that I don't necessarily embrace in toto and I am sure that Secretary Simon doesn't. But I do believe that on balance, it is important for me to endorse that bill.

And when you endorse a bill of that magnitude, I think you have to take it as a package because it does close some of the loopholes. It provides a sufficient amount of income so we can grant additional relief to people in the lowest bracket of income taxpayers.

It is my recollection that that bill does phase out not only foreign oil depletion allowance, but it provides for a gradual phase-out of the domestic oil depletion allowance.

I am not going to quibble with the committee in every detail. I think we have to buy a package that has far more good in it than those things I might object to.

QUESTION: Mr. President, is it your own view that the oil depletion allowance should be phased out?

THE PRESIDENT: The answer is yes.

X



**ROUTE SLIP** 

Ron Nessen

| From:  | W   | illiar | n E. | Simo | on        | <del></del> |
|--------|-----|--------|------|------|-----------|-------------|
| Remarl | (S: | Here   | are  | two  | different |             |

emarks: Here are two different approaches to the definition of recession.

- Q. The President has said we are not in a recession.
  Arthur Burns has said that we are. Whom should we believe?
- A. The important point is not whether we are "officially" in a recession or not. That question we can leave to the economic specialists on this subject.

What is important here is what is happening in the economy, where we are headed and what is being done about it. The basic facts are that we have a combination of declining economic activity and double-digit inflation -- what has been appropriately called "stagflation" -- and it looks like those conditions will continue into next year.

In considering what has to be done, we have to remember that the prime cause of our economic sluggishness has been the inflation itself, especially its impact on housing and consumer spending. Therefore, to meet the problems of stagflation we must:

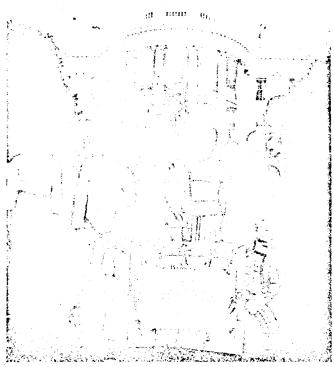
- (a) Cushion the impact of our economic difficulties where they have hit disproportionately hard through
  - -- direct aid to housing
  - -- increased unemployment benefits
  - -- temporary employment for those whose unemployment insurance has expired
  - -- tax relief for low-income taxpayers.
- (b) Avoid a new round of shortages and the inflationary pressures they generate by
  - -- maximizing food production
  - -- economizing on our use of energy
  - -- increasing our productive capacity by liberalizing the investment tax credit.
- (c) Curb inflation by maintaining budget restraint in 1975 and beyond, by cutting expenditures and by instituting a temporary surtax to pay for the new programs, so that we can
  - -- ease the pressure of Federal borrowing in the credit markets, which will reduce interest rates and make more funds available for housing '
  - -- restore consumer confidence and put some zip back in consumer spending.

ERFiedler October 17, 1974 Ext. 2551 299-3476

Original sent to Ron reeven OWH

- Q: The President has said we are not in a recession. Arthur Burns has said that we are. Whom should we believe?
- A: The important point here is that almost everybody agrees economic activity is sluggish. Whether or not this period will qualify as a recession is a question we can leave to the recognized experts at the National Bureau of Economic Research. At last report, they had not made the call that this is a recession but perhaps they will later.

Whatever you want to call this period, there is no question it has many characteristics that are not typical of recession. Certainly the rate of inflation is extraordinarily high. Also, while the declines in housing and stock prices have been particularly severe and the physical volume of retail sales has been weak, there has been no decline at all in employment, which climbed to an all-time peak in September. Similarly, investment spending is still booming, which is most un-recession-like. Thus our economy is sluggish in a rather peculiar way.



INFLATION FIGHTERS-Ten Mever Elementary School students pose in front of the White House where they had taken promises to President Ford on how they would fight inflation. In the background (L to R) are Mrs. Tracy Hill, language arts teacher: John Calhoun, staff assistant to the President; and Mrs.

Pamella Stitt, classroom teacher. The youngsters are Shawnette Bethea, Tracy Parker, Guthrie Wright, James Johnson, Kimberly Mitchell, Timothy Carroll, Parder Royd, Demetria Johnson, Brenda Taylor and Tommie Smith.

(Story on Page 21)

# Meyer pupils take economy promises to White House

Ten Meyer Elementary School students were one step ahead of President Ford on how they would deal with inflation and the economy and they are proud of it.

Two days before his speech on inflation to the U.S. Congress they developed 11 promises; many were similar to those announced by the President.

They took their promises to the President a few days later and presented them to John Calhoun, staff assistant to the President. Their list was surrounded by paper drawings made by the students and mounted on a large piece of art paper.

In a letter to President Ford, the students said: "We want to do our part to make your work easier."

Mrs. Pamella classroom teacher for the third grade group at the 11th

and Clifton Sts., NW, school, and Mrs. Tracy Hill, language arts teacher, told the presidential aide that the promises were actually thought up by the students. Then each child read the promise.

They promised to:

- 1. Turn off water faucets tightly.
- 2. Turn off lights.
- 3. Turn off radio, TV and record players when no one is in the room listening.
- 4. Look at certain TV programs.
- 5. Eat all the food on their plates.
- 6. Save their clothes by changing into play clothes after school.
- 7. Use night lights instead of
- bright bulbs.

  8. Not go into the refrigerator often.
- 9. Not use too much of their

- 10. Go to bed early to save electricity.
- 11. Will not use telephone to call neighbors, but will walk to go visit instead.

The White House aide told the students that their promises would contribute much toward winning the battle against inflation. Calhoun said: "The President will appreciate your help, and your parents will thank you for your participation in a battle we all must fight together."

The students were presented a gift from the President and were taken on a special tour of the White House.

students The students were Shawnette Betha, Tracy Parker, Guthrie Wright, James Johnson, Kimberly Mitchell, Timothy Carroll, Parder Boyd, Demetria Johnson, Brenda Taylor and Tommia Smith Tommie Smith.

Oct. 31, 1974 Vol. XLVII No. 6 VIII

A Johnson Publication

THE WASHINGTON SCENE: President Ford received a poster from the third grade at Meyer Elementary School with 11 suggestions for dealing with inflation. Ten pupils, accompanied by their teachers Ms. Tracy Hill and Ms. Pamella Stitt, took the poster and a tape recording of the suggestions to the White House and presented them to Presidential Assistant John Calheun. In turn, Calhoun accompanied the pupils on a tour of the White House and grounds. . . . Artists: Georgia Powell painted a portrait of singer Mavis Staples on Ms. Staples' recent visit here. Georgia Jessup lectured on ceramics for those who toured the Art Dept. of the Anacostia Neighborhood Smithsonian Museum. Wendy Wilson's graphics are being shown at the James Porter Gallery at the Howard University School of Fine Arts. . . . Travelers: Byron and Elsie Rumford visited Vienna, Budapest and Rome on their European trip. . . . Retired concert artist Marian Anderson was here for a benefit to raise funds for the National Symphony Orchestra for which her nephew, James DePriest, is assistant conductor. . . . Dr. and Mrs. C. David Hinton showed the color portraits of Joseph Daniel Clipper at their home. . . . At a recent luncheon for the Supreme Court justices' wives, which used a Hawaiian theme for food and entertainment, Mrs. Thurgood Marshall, a Hawaiian, gave the invocation. . . . Gloria Richardson and Floyd -E. FANNIE GRANTON Crawford were married in Rockville, Md.

econo my

PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC ADDRESS -- October 8, 1974

#### **ENERGY**

(Rog Morton...will be the overall boss of our national energy program.) His marching orders are to REDUCE IMPORTS OF FOREIGN OIL BY ONE MILLION BARRELS PER DAY BY THE END OF 1975. WHETHER BY SAVINGS HERE AT HOME OR BY INCREASING OUR OWN SOURCES.

If all these steps (legislative proposals--deregulation of natural gas; opening up Naval reserves; clean air act amendments; surface mining legislation) fail to meet our current energy-saving goals, I WILL NOT HESITATE TO ASK FOR TOUGHER MEASURES.

#### RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES

(My Administration will zero-in on more effective enforcement of laws against price-fixing and bid-rigging. For instance,) NON-COMPETITIVE PROFESSIONAL FEE SCHEDULES and real estate settlement fees MUST BE ELIMINATED.

(NOTE: no specific mention of doctors, lawyers or any other professions in message or fact sheet.)