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March 4, 1976

SUBJECT:

NEW YORK TIMES ALLEGATIONS  
ON OSHA REGULATIONS

The New York Times contended today that OSHA is delaying the promulgation of several controversial regulations until after the November election, implying White House involvement in those developments.

Has the White House been telling OSHA to delay rules that could save lives, hearing, etc.?

GUIDANCE: Obviously not.

Since the fall of 1974, President Ford has reiterated the need to unburden the American people of costly, excessive and inflationary Government regulation, and I don't think I have to repeat all of the specific measures he has taken in this regard.

One of the most important was an Executive Order he issued in November '74 requiring that all major legislative proposals, regulations and rules emanating from that Executive Branch include an inflationary impact statement. The purpose of the inflationary impact statement is to get the Executive Branch to stop promulgating rules in which the costs outweigh the benefits.

OSHA, which is within the Labor Department, is obliged to live by the spirit of that order, but develops its statements and timetables independent of the Executive Office, which has no authority to actually approve or disapprove its regulations.

All along, the White House concern has been better regulation, not parties and politics. As for the timing, OSHA's decisions were made independently without White House intervention. You'll have to ask them the reason.

By the way, I should mention that there are a number of bills in Congress, proposed and supported by Democrats and Republicans alike, which would require better analyses of cost-benefit ratios in Government regulation, so that this is not, as the article implies, a partisan political concern.

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