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SUNSET LAWS

- Q. Do you support the so-called "Sunset Laws," which would abolish most federal agencies every five years unless Congress votes to extend them?
- A. I certainly support the purpose behind those bills: reform and greater efficiency in government.

One of my major goals as President has been to make the federal government more responsive, less expensive, less burdensome, and more understandable to the average citizen.

That will continue to be a major goal, if I am elected in November.

I have proposed to Congress an "Agenda for Government Reform Act", which provides for a disciplined and mandatory approach to reviewing governmental activities. I believe it is a sound proposal to force Congress to examine many programs which should, perhaps, be discontinued.

I hope Congress will act quickly on it.

But I think it is premature for me to comment now on any specific "Sunset Bill" still in Congress.

JBS/ECS/8-12-76

August 5, 1976

SUBJECT: SUNSET LEGISLATION

Yesterday the Senate Government Operations Committee approved a measure that would end all government programs that could not justify themselves in a requisite five-year review. The measure is called the "sunset bill," "zero based budgeting," and the "Muskie bill." It is also part of the "Jimmy Carter Stump Package."

How does the Administration feel about the so-called "sunset bill?"

First of all, I understand that Paul O'Neill had some remarks on this legislation before the House Budget Committee last week, and you may want to contact OMB for copies of his statement.

Secondly, I refer you to the President's Agenda for Government Reform legislation, which was transmitted to the Congress on May 13, which would require the Congress and the President to act on government reform on a specified timetable. The result, the President feels, of his legislation would be to: eliminate excessive regulatory constraints on the economy; eliminate excessive delay in the "system"; streamline the costly regulatory bureaucracy, and at the same time, reduce federal paperwork-- which might not occur under the "sunset" bill.

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