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October 15, 1974

SUBJECT:

TEXAN ATTENDS EXPENSIVE  
WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

According to a story in this morning's Baltimore Sun, Millard Holden spent \$400 last week to watch President Ford's Economic Address to Congress on television. He says he was invited to the White House to sit in on a briefing regarding the President's economic policy. He says they were then to be asked their views as consultants. He says he spent over \$400 flying to Washington, there was no briefing, and then they watched the President's address on television.

Do you have any reaction to Mr. Holden's comments?

**GUIDANCE:** Mr. Holden was invited to attend a one-hour White House briefing and discussion on the President's Economic Message to Congress. The briefing was conducted by the President's top economic advisors, and began at 2 o'clock p.m., Wednesday, October 9. Since the President had a press conference at 2:30 p.m., television sets were turned on to allow the attendees to watch the press conference. Following the press conference, there was an opportunity for a question and answer period after the meeting.

We are sorry that Mr. Holden did not feel the trip was worth his time and money, but we feel it is our obligation to make senior White House officials available to answer questions and explain the Administration's policy in detail.