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Suggested Qs & As for Presidential Press Conference

Q Do you plan to campaign this fall for Republican Congressional candidates?

A Yes of course -- insofar as my official duties permit. Among all the hats a President wears, he is the leader of his Party. I'm going to try to establish the general themes for the campaign, with the battle to curb inflation priority-number-one. And I intend to ask the American people to elect Congressmen and Senators whom I can work with -- and who are prepared to make the tough decisions necessary to bring our national commitments into line with our capabilities.

Q How active will you be, Mr. President?

A As I've said, the official duties of the Presidency come first. As a general proposition, when the Congress adjourns -- which should be in mid-October -- I intend to make campaign appearances around the country a day or two of each remaining week before Election Day on November 5th.

Q What about cabinet officers? Will they do any campaigning?

A Same answer as before: with the usual and traditional exceptions -- the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General -- I would expect cabinet officers to do some campaigning insofar as their official duties permit.

Congressional Relations  
Congressional Campaign

- Q. Do you expect Governor Rockefeller to campaign this fall, especially if his nomination is still in the confirmation process?
- A. His first responsibility is his confirmation and he has already indicated that he will not campaign for Republicans running against incumbent Democrats in Congress in order to avoid the risk of having his confirmation caught up in the 1974 campaign. Consistent with this, I hope he can make some limited appearances.

Congressional Relations  
Congressional Campaign

Q. How much will you campaign for Republican Congressional candidates during the fall?

A. My first responsibility is to complete the transition, develop a battle plan for coping with inflation and attending to other affairs of state. However, consistent with these responsibilities, I expect to make limited appearances as circumstances will allow.

Congressional Relations  
Conservatives Revolt

Q. How do you expect to regain the support of conservative Republicans who complained last week about your amnesty position, your nomination of Governor Rockefeller and announcement of your position on Rhodesian Chrome in quick succession?

A. The decisions that I have made and expect to make as President are intended to be for the best interests of the Nation. Various elements will always approve of some decisions, while they will disapprove of others. The Members of Congress to whom you refer can expect to be pleased with my position on a strong national defense, fiscal restraint and the Ford Administration's effort to move power away from Washington in order to return it to the people where it belongs.

H

Q: What is your position on Day Care?

A: I believe there is a need for quality day care services and understand that a bill has recently been introduced. Day care services are presently included in several Federally supported programs. I will be consulting with Secretary Weinberger and members of my staff on current needs for day care and how these programs are meeting those needs before commenting on the proposed legislation.

Anne Abmsion ~~1973~~

WOMEN

Q: Now that you have become the President of the United States, has your position on abortion changed?

A: I am sure you are aware there is a wide division of opinion on this issue. I will abide by the Supreme Court's decision.

ABORTION

Question:

What will your Administration do about the Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in favor of abortion?

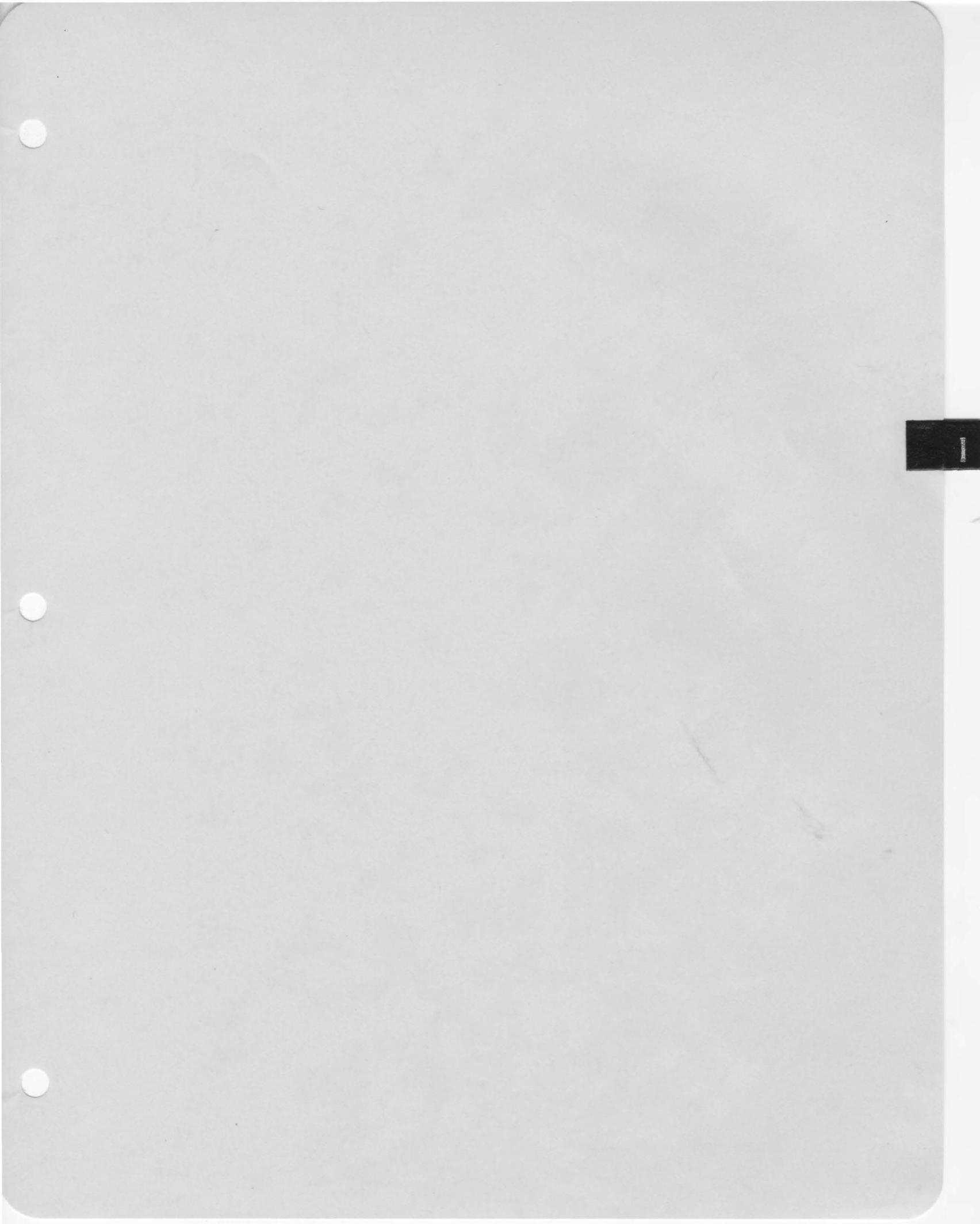
Answer:

As you know the Supreme Court in 1973 ruled that State laws against abortion were unconstitutional. Because of that decision there is, at this time, no proper action for the Federal Government to take on this issue.

Background:

As Minority Leader, the President co-sponsored a constitutional amendment which would restore to the citizens of each State the power to regulate abortions. While Vice President, he continued to support such an amendment. As President, he has not as yet addressed the matter.

8/26/74  
PGN



- Black Box w/ RN + another w/ RF during Aug 9 transition?
- Shortened command lines at DOD in final days of RN?

### Q's for Press Conference

What plans do you have for foreign travel and meetings with Soviet and PRC leaders?

Some say detente is stalled. How do you see future U.S. -Soviet relations?

Reports say you have assured the Soviet leaders of extensive efforts to further arms limitation negotiations. Other reports say the U.S. has re agreed SALT position. Where do you plan to go next on SALT?

How do you assess the prospects for achieving a trade Bill this year? Can you reach a compromise with Senator Jackson on MFN for the Soviet Union?

Why did the United States not act more forcefully to restrain the Turkish actions on Cyprus? What will the U.S. do now to bring peace there?

How do you assess the current state of U.S. -European relations, especially in light of the Greek threat to withdraw from NATO?

Is the United States going to do anything about the Turkish decision to resume opium production?



In your August 12th speech to Congress, you failed to mention Africa. What will be your Administration's policy toward Africa?

What will be your Administration's policy toward Latin America, especially in regard to Cuba following Panama's unilateral resumption of relations?

There has been no apparent movement in U.S. -PRC relations in the past year. When do you foresee full normalization and establishment of diplomatic relations with the PRC?

For the past several years, U.S. foreign policy has been attacked for being insensitive to human rights issues in Greece, Korea, Chile and elsewhere. Do you contemplate any change in this approach to policy?

Many in Congress oppose further U.S. aid to Vietnam and Congress has severely cut U.S. assistance programs there. What do you see as the proper U.S. role in Indochina?

Do you anticipate a new Hanoi offensive against South Vietnam? Is there any hope for a settlement in Cambodia? *(Will the U.S. send troops to SVN?)*

Threats of mobilization and war are again being heard in the Middle East. Are you optimistic about the chance for a real peace settlement there? When will the peace talks reconvene and what role will the Palestinians play?

The Israelis are reportedly asking the U. S. for \$1.5 billion a year military aid for several years. How will you respond to this request and will you tie a U. S. response to Israeli territorial concessions to the Arabs?

You have said that the Defense budget is not sacrosanct but we still need a strong defense. What is your reaction to the Senate's \$5 billion cut in the Defense Appropriations Bill?

What is your policy toward nuclear proliferation in the wake of the Indian test and reports that Brazil, Argentina, Israel and others may be considering developing nuclear explosives?

At a time of increasing economic difficulties and food shortages at home, the Administration is requesting large foreign assistance budgets. What will be your attitude toward foreign aid and PL-480 food programs?

The U. S. is the world's largest supplier of arms around the world, including both conventional cash sales and military grant programs. Do you believe that arming the world, including dictatorships, serves the course of peace?

The international economy is seriously threatened. What remedies do you propose to achieve lower oil prices, international monetary stability and expanded, balanced trade patterns?

31. There are some signs that the United States may normalize its relations with Cuba. What are the chances that this will happen?

A.



OMB

ENVIRONMENT

Question: Why has it been suggested that the automotive fuel economy labeling program be shifted from the Environmental Protection Agency to the National Bureau of Standards if such a transfer would involve a ten-fold increase in Federal expenditures?

Answer: No decision has been made concerning which agency or department will operate the fuel economy labeling program. However, the National Bureau of Standards has been asked to evaluate a wide range of possible test procedures. Decisions in respect to agency roles will not be addressed until this evaluation is completed.

OMB

ENVIRONMENT

Question: Why is the Administration opposed to Safe Drinking Water legislation?

Answer: The Administration is not opposed to Safe Drinking Water legislation. We have submitted a legislative proposal which would lead to the establishment of national standards to protect public health without preempting the rights of the States to enforce these standards.

OMB

REINSTITUTING SCIENCE ADVISER IN WHITE HOUSE

Question: Are you contemplating any changes in Science Advisory Apparatus?

Answer: I believe in obtaining wide ranging advice on the complex issues of today and am encouraging views from all quarters. Dr. Stever of NSF is now providing considerable advice on those issues involving science and technology. The various departments and agencies have substantially more scientific expertise available to them than in earlier years. However, we will be reviewing this question as a part of our overall examination of WH and EXOP organization.

SPACE PROGRAM

Question: In this time of financial distress and general governmental belt-tightening will consideration be given to eliminating unnecessary Federal programs such as the space program?

Answer: Although the space program no longer has the very high national priority it enjoyed in the 1960's, we would consider it irresponsible to suggest that the U. S. should consider closing down its space program. The space program has been substantially reduced from the peak expenditure rate experienced during the Apollo program (\$5.9B in FY 1966). The current program level of about \$3.3 billion is contributing to significant gains in science, communications, earth resources, pollution monitoring and civilian and military aircraft technology.

Space shuttle

Q: Should the Nation continue development of the space shuttle transportation system to provide manned space flight capability and a delivery system for unmanned satellites (domestic and foreign) for the 1980's and beyond?

A: The shuttle has the objective of reducing the cost of space activities by reusing spacecraft and satellites.

-- The space shuttle represents the only manned program planned beyond the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project with the Soviet Union, scheduled for launch in 1975. Cancellation of the shuttle would require reexamination of the Nation's future manned presence in space.

-- Like all major Federal activities, the space shuttle is being subjected to ongoing, thorough reassessments to assure that the resources committed to the project are consistent with the advantages that accrue to the Nation.

K

2/11/67

Rush

What are the chances of another oil embargo?

The oil embargo last winter, coupled with the massive increase in world oil prices, has been a severe blow to every oil consuming country in the world. Since that time, we have been working closely with the oil producing nations to see that this kind of thing does not happen again. As a result of Secretary Kissinger's effort in settling the Mideast war and our close relationship with the oil producing states since that time, I have reason to believe that a renewed embargo is unlikely in the near future.

But we cannot be complacent about this. The best long run approach for us is to look to energy conservation and an increase in our domestic energy production so that we will no longer be vulnerable to another embargo attempt.

Wash

2

Q. Are you presently considering a tax of 10¢ per gallon on gasoline as was reported in the Los Angeles Times?

A. The economic advisers are reviewing a wide range of ideas and recommendations, but there are no immediate plans to ask Congress for any specific tax increase.

Rush

Will we have another fuel crisis this winter

We feel confident that there will be sufficient energy supplies for the entire winter. Domestic oil supplies have increased above last year's level, and world supplies are also plentiful. Indeed, it has recently been reported that many of the OPEC countries are reducing production because of substantial surplus. However, an embargo of the magnitude which the OPEC countries imposed last year would significantly affect domestic supplies.

While it is fairly clear that natural gas is in short supply, and that some industrial customers, particularly in the Northeast may face cutbacks in natural gas availability, we feel confident that these shortages can be absorbed through alternative energy sources, such as propane. In the long run, we hope that the Congress will decontrol new natural gas to provide an incentive to producers to intensify their search for new gas supplies.

With regard to coal supplies, there should be sufficient supplies unless there is a national coal strike. Such an event would cause problems for the nation's electric utilities, which are so dependent on coal as a primary energy source. At present, we are working hard to encourage an increase in coal supplies to reduce any hardships which might ensue from a strike.

4  
Q. Are oil profits too large?

A. Oil industry profits are certainly large and have been growing rapidly since the second half of 1973. A recent study by Treasury of 19 U.S. oil companies, however, has placed the profitability of the industry in better perspective.

That study showed that about three-fourths of the increase in 1st quarter 1974 profits over 1st quarter 1973 was attributable to either non-petroleum business activities (such as chemical and tanker operations) or non-recurring illusory sources (such as inventory profits and foreign currency profits). When these factors are subtracted, we find that profits of ongoing petroleum operations increased 21%--although that is a sizeable increase, it is more in line with the general experience of the economy during the 1st quarter of 1974.

The Treasury Study furthermore found that oil industry profits, as measured by the average return on investment since 1958, fell within the middle range of all major U.S. industries.

It is important to remember in this regard that the Administration remains firmly in favor of the windfall profits tax it proposed last December.

Rush

5 Are you planning to lift the price controls on oil and petroleum products?

As you know, we currently have a complex two-tier pricing system, with "old" oil controlled at \$5.25/barrel and "new", "stripper" and "released" oil at free market prices which are averaging about \$10 per barrel. We are aware of the fact that the two-tier price system may work a special hardship on independent oil refiners and marketers, many of whom are dependent on the more expensive foreign oil.

Methods have been proposed for equalizing oil prices in order to remove the unfairness to those independent oil companies. If the prices were to be equalized, we hope to avoid the realization of exorbitant windfall profits by certain oil producers by the enactment of a windfall profits tax which is now under active consideration by the Congress.

At the same time, we are concerned about the impact any removal of price controls would have on the consumer. Since the consumer is already suffering a tremendous burden due to the tremendous jump in oil prices in the last year, I do not favor removal of price controls at this time. Lifting of price controls would not result in increased domestic productivity.

Rush

6 What progress have you made in your national energy conservation effort?

While the end of the Arab oil embargo reduced much of the enthusiasm for a concerted national conservation effort, we have not diminished our efforts to direct industry and citizens to conserve energy.

Indeed, the Federal Energy Administration is developing and seeking to implement energy conservation programs. As you know, the 55 mile per hour speed limit was but one of the many measures the FEA has developed to induce citizens to conserve energy. Beyond this, the FEA is attempting to have private industry adopt energy conservation programs to reduce wasteful consumption without interfering with their normal operations. We have also encouraged retrofitting of homes and adjustment of thermostats. Conservation remains the best means in the short term of bringing domestic energy demand in line with our ability to produce energy. Moreover, the success of our conservation efforts will substantially assist in the fight against inflation and in improving our balance of payments.

Energy conservation is a slow process because it involves altering existing lifestyles. However, we are confident that our programs will achieve perceptible changes in energy consumption.

Rush

What new energy technology is being developed to help solve the energy crisis?

The U.S. has several new energy technologies which are promising. Nuclear power is just emerging as a major commercial energy source and is expected to play a growing role during the next 15 years. A number of other technologies, such as oil shale and coal gasification and liquefaction, are now in the pilot plant stage. With aggressive implementation, these technologies could have a significant impact on U.S. energy supply by 1985. There are also several technologies which may have a significant impact after 1990. These include breeder reactors, nuclear fusion, solar, and geothermal energy sources. We are devoting a large research and development program to these technologies. These new technologies will help us to reduce our dependence on our gradually depleting oil reserves.

Rush

8 What remedies do you propose for the current financial plight  
of the electric utility industry?

Electric utility rates have been rising quite rapidly in recent months. These rate increases have not helped our immediate inflation. However, utilities have been caught in the same type of escalations in the cost of fuel, capital and operating expense that have affected the rest of the economy. The utilities are at a disadvantage when it comes to passing on those increases in the cost of generating and distributing electricity. Unlike most industries, the utilities must receive regulatory approval before passing through many of their costs. Delay or withholding of that approval has resulted in severe erosion of operating revenues for many utilities. This has hurt their ability to attract new capital or debt, and the result has been cancellation of more than \$12 billion dollars worth of needed additional generating facilities. The only remedy which will act with sufficient speed and force to avert irreparable damage to the utility industry's financial health is rate relief. I realize the short run consequences of such a move will further raise living costs, but if we are to insure that our economy will have sufficient future supplies of electrical energy available, we must permit the utility industry to earn adequate revenues now.

REMOVING PRICE CONTROLS FROM OIL

Domestic  
Council

Question:

Are you going to take price controls off petroleum and let the consumers contribute even more to outrageous oil company profits?

Answer:

I have no plans at this time to remove price controls from petroleum. I understand that the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) and a working group of the Committee on Energy are developing alternatives and recommendations for dealing with the problems for petroleum deallocation and price control, but no recommendations have come to me. I will review any recommendations that I get in this area very carefully because of the potential impact on:

- (a) Consumer prices
- (b) The independent sector of the petroleum industry, and
- (c) Our ability to increase domestic oil production.

Background:

- Press accounts on August 23 of plans to remove price controls have sparked criticism from Senator Jackson and others.
- FEA now allocates crude oil and petroleum products and controls prices under authority of the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act which is due to expire on February 28, 1975. Objectives of this Act are to protect independents and consumers. The Senate is moving on legislation to extend the Act to June 30, 1975.
- Price controls are still in effect for about 60% of domestic crude oil (so called "old" oil - \$5.25 per barrel) but not on the other 40% of domestic crude or on imports (about \$9-12 per barrel). Price controls are still maintained on most petroleum products but the higher cost of domestic and imported crude and of imported products can be "passed through" to consumers.
- On May 25, 1974, President Nixon directed FEA to come up with a plan to move away from petroleum deallocation -- with the objective of increasing domestic oil production. Work on a plan is under way in FEA and a working group of the Committee on Energy (chaired by Bill Simon). Recommendations have not yet gone to the Committee.
- Problem is complex. General consensus is that action to remove crude price differential must precede deallocation or independent sector of the industry will suffer.

M. Duval (G. S.)  
8/26/74

OMB

PETROLEUM PRICES

Question: Is the Administration planning to remove price controls on "old" domestic crude oil?

Answer: We are committed to returning the petroleum industry to the free market. This includes removal of controls and ending of the petroleum allocation program where it can be done without adverse affect on American consumers. The Administration's windfall profits tax proposal is designed to deal with any windfall profits that may result from removal of these price controls.

QUESTION: Is it true that the Administration is considering lifting or removing the price ceiling on domestic crude?

ANSWER: The Cabinet-level Committee on Energy chaired by Secretary Simon is developing, on an inter-agency basis, the Administration's de-allocation strategy.

The proposal to remove the ceiling price on "old crude" is just one of a number of options that will be brought before the Committee on Energy before a final recommendation is submitted to me.

In my view, there is no question that we cannot isolate energy decision-making from our efforts to reduce inflation or from our national energy goals to reduce demand and increase domestic production. I can assure you that in making a final decision before we go to the Congress, I will do just that. At the same time, I think it is important to keep in mind that as the supply situation improves -- as it has in nearly every fuel area -- we should move towards restoring the dynamics of a free market.

**QUESTION:** Do you intend to sign the new tax bill if it comes to you with a phase-out or reduction of the oil depletion allowance included? If you intend to sign it, do you think the windfall profits tax should still be enacted?

**ANSWER:** We will have to make that decision when we see the final form of the bill and can weigh together all its provisions. We are concerned both about meeting our energy needs and that short run windfall profits do not result to producers. It is for that reason that the windfall profits tax was proposed. We believe the windfall profits tax is a superior tool for dealing with the short run problem of windfall profits. It will exact taxes related to windfall profits but will not impede expansion of the domestic industry along a path that will ensure a high degree of future self-sufficiency.

**BACKGROUND:** The Administration last December proposed the windfall profits tax. The Ways and Means Committee largely eliminated its affect by adding a "plowback" credit against the tax for the amount of investment the taxpayer makes in oil related activity. The Committee added to the bill a phase-out of percentage depletion which the Administration has opposed.

QUESTION: Won't decontrolling old oil add to inflationary pressures?

ANSWER: The statutes for the existing allocation program expire sometime next year. Secretary Simon's Energy Policy Committee is examining the options we have in moving towards de-allocation. And consideration of decontrolling the price of "old oil" is just one option in developing a de-allocation strategy.

Current indications are that decontrolling the price of "old oil" could result in an increase in the price of gasoline by as much as 3 cents a gallon. That, however, is a decision that I will not be making until I receive a recommendation from the Committee on Energy.

L

OLDER AMERICANS

Domestic  
Council

Question:

Last week you met with representatives of older Americans organizations and listened to their concerns. What will the Ford Administration do for those people?

Answer:

First of all let me say that the major concern of older Americans is inflation. They are the people that are hit hardest by it. The greatest service I could do for our senior citizens is to continue the battle against inflation. Second, this Administration is dedicated to helping older Americans live lives of dignity and self-sufficiency in their own homes as long as possible. As I said to the older American representatives last week, I'm not going to make any promises until I'm sure I can follow through. My staff is in the process now of studying the suggestions put forth in that meeting and will then be submitting their recommendations to me as to what further actions we can take.



8/26/74  
PGN

8/27/74

## Income Maintenance

Supplemental Security Income

Question: Are you satisfied with the progress in implementation of the new supplemental security income program which is being administered by the Social Security Administration?

Answer: Yes, but as the Social Security Commissioner has pointed out, problems have been encountered during the first seven months of the program due both to changes in law and also to underestimation of the complexity of the program during the planning stages. I am confident, however, that those problems will be ironed out.

Welfare Reform

Question: Your predecessor committed his Administration to submit a Welfare Reform proposal to Congress. Do you intend to submit such a proposal?

Answer: I think that we can all agree that the current mishmash of welfare programs is a mess. Work continues in HEW and other agencies on the development of alternative proposals to reform welfare. I do not want to make decisions on this issue, however, until the staff work and analysis is completed and presented to me.

Social Security

Question: Does this Administration plan to make any substantive changes in the Social Security laws within the next year or two?

### Social Security

Answer: The Social Security Advisory Council is now meeting to review all aspects of the old age, survivors, and disability program as well as Medicare. The Council is expected to report early in 1975. Many issues of substantive change have been referred to the Council for its study and recommendation. We do not expect to propose new legislation without giving the Council an opportunity to study and give us their views on such proposals.

### Juvenile Delinquency

Question: With 50% of all serious crime being committed by juveniles, what does the Administration plan to do with the enrolled Juvenile Delinquency Bill (S. 821)?

Answer: I believe, as do the proponents of that bill, that juvenile delinquency is a serious national concern. Over the last five years, the Federal Government has made available nearly \$360 million directly to State and local governments, for the design and implementation of programs to ameliorate this problem. We are presently considering S. 821 and I expect to make a decision on that bill within the next few days.

### Office of Economic Opportunity

Question: What is your position on the continuation of OEO, which the previous Administration tried to eliminate?

Answer: Many OEO programs are being continued in other Federal agencies--for example, the Native Americans, health, and R&D programs have been transferred to HEW, and the migrants program to the Department of Labor. The bill to establish a separate, independent Legal Services Corporation was recently signed into law. In the case of Community

Office of Economic Opportunity

Answer: Action, I continue to support the concept that this is a local responsibility, and it is therefore up to State and local officials to determine which projects are valuable and should receive their support, without direct Federal assistance via OEO.

Problems of the Elderly.

Question: The current rate of inflation may be causing hardship to the aged and others on fixed incomes. What is being done by the Federal Government to safeguard their interests?

Answer: Over the last few years, the laws have been changed to provide automatic adjustments to insure that Social Security benefits keep pace with the cost-of-living. In fact, since 1969, Social Security benefits have increased at a rate higher than the increase in the cost of living. Of course, our real goal should be to get inflation itself under control. Right now, inflation is the most serious problem of the Nation as a whole, not just the elderly, and we must solve it.

M

Veterans Administration  
Press Conference - Questions and Answers

- Q. How will the veteran's right-of-privacy be protected if VA installs their planned new large-scale computer system?
- A. In the first place, the system has not yet been approved. But even at this stage, I can assure you that the VA design carries a triple-check system to prevent non-authorized use and secondly, there is no plan to have computer-to-computer ties to any other agency.
- Q. How do you feel about the recent House-passed GI Bill amendment?
- A. I am happy to see that the House acted to remove some of the inflationary impact of this legislation. I hope that soon we can enact legislation which will give our student veterans their long overdue cost-of-living increase.
- Q. What is the status of the late GI Bill check problem?
- A. I would like to answer that in two ways. First, after exhaustive analysis of the way awards are made, several procedural changes have been adopted to speed up the process and reduce the number of late checks. This has been and continues to be a high priority item. Second, VA employees have been placed on campuses all across the country. They are in a position to prevent many mistakes which otherwise would result in late checks.
- Q. What action do you intend to take on the recommendations of the special study of the VA medical system which we understand was submitted to the White House on July 31?
- A. As I indicated in my remarks to the VFW in Chicago, I have asked Dick Roudsbush to review all programs and activities of the VA and forward his recommendations for action to me. I am sure he will be doing that as soon as he is confirmed and I will, in turn, act expeditiously on his recommendations.

Mc

N

CIVIL RIGHTS

Domestic  
Cabinet

Question:

You say you intend to be President of all the people. What will be your civil rights enforcement policy?

Answer:

The Administration is firmly committed to ensuring equal rights and opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

I expect the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice to continue vigorous enforcement of the civil rights statutes enacted in the last decade. These laws state a firm national policy of equal opportunity -- in education, employment, housing, voting and other fields. The law must be enforced to the end that all citizens in our society should have an equal chance to vote, equal opportunity in jobs, equal access to decent housing, equal opportunity to a good education. We need to insure the right of all Americans to the opportunity to achieve his or her best, and to be judged solely on the merits. Particularly in these difficult economic times, the field of equal employment opportunity is of major importance. Access to jobs on a fair and meritorious basis, without either racial bias or favoritism, is critical to insuring everyone's access to a full and rightful place in our society.

While we have made progress in the field of civil rights in recent years, there are still many areas where Americans are the victims of unequal treatment because of their color, national origin, or sex. In my view, even one such instance is too many, and I expect the Civil Rights Division to use its resources to help make the American ideal of equal treatment for all a reality.

GCS  
8/26/74