

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1974

The Congress and I have agreed to hold a Conference on Inflation. I would appreciate your participation in a meeting of leaders in the area of business and manufacturing on September 19, 1974, in Detroit, Michigan, and your attendance at the Conference on Inflation on September 27-28, 1974, in Washington, D. C.

We are asking participants to come prepared to discuss the present economic situation, its causes, and the most appropriate policies the Government can adopt. We are also anxious to listen to your advice regarding the problems faced by your particular sector of the economy and how you can best contribute to controlling inflation. Enclosed is a series of questions which will focus the discussions at the meeting.

The Secretary of Commerce will chair the meeting on business and manufacturing. Members of Congress, designated by their leadership, will be present and participate.

Please inform Secretary Dent's office (202/967-2113) whether you plan to attend. They will provide you with further details regarding the meeting.

The Conference on Inflation is a bipartisan national effort to deal with our number one domestic problem. Your participation will be a real service to your country, and I do hope that you will be able to give us the benefit of your thinking.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

Enclosure

Questions for Discussion by Participants at
The Summit Meeting of Business and Manufacturing

I. What basic policies should be adopted to deal with the problems of inflation? What changes and suggestions have you with respect to:

A. Fiscal

1. Expenditures

- . Maintaining federal expenditures below \$300 billion in fiscal 1975
- . Seeking a balanced Federal budget or a surplus in fiscal 1976
- . Priority preferences for existing governmental programs within the federal budget limitations
- . Other

2. Receipts

- . Current levels of federal taxation
- . Tax incentives or deterrents
- . Other

B. Monetary policy

- . Current monetary policy and its effect on interest rates
- . Availability of capital funds and money for financing
- . Other

C. Government regulations

- . Government regulations (Federal, State, Local) and their effect on productivity
- . Wage and Price controls, guidelines or private initiatives
- . Environmental protection requirements

D. International conditions

- . Current international economic developments and international arrangements for financial stability
- . Raw materials availability

II. What actions above all would you recommend the President and the Congress take at this time -- long-term (realistic approaches), short-term (to recognize hardships and inequities)?