

APRIL 22, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President began meeting with his energy and economic advisers at 12:05 p.m. Attending the meeting were the Vice President, Secretaries Rogers Morton, and John Dunlop, also Arthur Burns, Alan Greenspan, William Seidman, Jack Marsh, Don Rumsfeld, Bob Hartmann, Stephen Gardner, Frank Zarb, James Lynn, Dick Cheney, and Dick Dunham.

Mr. Greenspan opened the meeting by reviewing the Current State of the Economy. He pointed out that although the CPI was up only 0.3% in March, much of this was attributable to the sharp decline in food prices of 0.9% and that the actual rate of inflation was somewhat higher than this.

Secretary Dunlop then remarked that he has been testifying on the Hill in support of the Extension of Unemployment Benefits. This dealt with the extension of unemployment benefits for an additional thirteen weeks, bringing the total up to sixty-five weeks, and an additional thirteen weeks of supplemental assistance for those not previously covered, bringing their total to thirty-nine weeks. Secretary Dunlop also noted that the Administration proposal contains "triggers" which are based on local area levels of unemployment. The President asked how soon Congress will act on this legislation, and Secretary Dunlop said he expected action very promptly. Dr. Dunlop also reviewed Upcoming Labor Negotiations. He stated that he was hopeful that the Emergency Board appointed in the Railroad Clerks case would be able to settle that dispute. He also discussed the contract negotiations coming up later this year, including Maritime, Shipbuilding, and the Postal Service. 1976 contract negotiations include Trucking, Rubber, Electrical, Meat Packing, and Automobiles. Secretary Dunlop summarized by saying, in general, the industrial relations climate is good, but there are some areas where there could be problems.

Director Lynn then discussed the recent actions by the Congressional Budget Committees. He remarked that the Senate Budget Committee has approved a \$67.2 deficit, while the House Committee deficit is \$73.2 billion. The President's goal is a maximum deficit of \$60 billion.

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There was a brief discussion of the energy legislation now pending in the House. The President again stated the need for an energy program now, and said time is passing very rapidly. Mr. Zarb remarked that he would be meeting with Rep. Ullman later today and expected to have an option paper to the President no later than Monday on whether to impose another \$1 increase on the oil import tariff and/or decontrol old oil.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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