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BUDGET BRIEFING
JANUARY 20, 1976

HUD'S BUDGET CALLS FOR INCREASES IN KEY PROGRAMS OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUT MAINTAINS OUTLAYS AT 1976 LEVELS.

IT IS THE RESULT OF DEEP THOUGHT, CAREFUL PLANNING AND STRICT ATTENTION TO HUD'S PRIMARY JOB OF HELPING TO PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING IN A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL AMERICANS.

OUR BUDGET SQUARES WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S CALL FOR "COMMON SENSE" GOVERNMENT AND HONESTY WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

IT "PROMISES NO MORE THAN WE CAN DELIVER" AND IT GIVES HUD THE MEANS TO "DELIVER ON ALL THAT WE PROMISE".

BEFORE OUR BUDGET DIRECTOR, AL KLIMAN, TAKES YOU THROUGH THE FIGURES AND PROGRAMS, IN DETAIL, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE FOUR HIGHLIGHTS AS I SEE THEM:



ONE: WE PROPOSE DIRECT SUBSIDY FOR OVER 500,000 HOUSING UNITS FOR THE YEAR -- THE KIND OF NUMBERS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HUD IN A LONG TIME.

TWO: WE REQUEST FULL AUTHORIZATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS. HERE, AGAIN, -- YOU'LL FIND THAT SUCH A REQUEST FOR FULL STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IS NEW TO HUD'S RECENT HISTORY. CERTAINLY, IT IS IN ACCORD WITH THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGN FOR "NEW REALISM" IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

THREE: WE PLAN A DELIBERATE, SHARP DROP IN HUD'S INVENTORY OF ACQUIRED PROPERTIES. AND, WE INTEND TO SHOW A REAL CUTBACK IN THE RATE OF MORTGAGE ASSIGNMENTS. WE WILL USE NEW INITIATIVES, UNDER OUR SECTION 8 PROGRAM -- BOTH TO HELP PROJECTS IN DEFAULT, AND TO ASSIST IN SELLING OFF HUD'S BACKLOGGED INVENTORY.



FOUR: AND, SO THAT WE CAN DELIVER ON WHAT WE PROMISE -- WE ARE ASKING FOR THE ADDITION OF VITALLY NEEDED STAFF TO HELP GET THE JOB DONE -- SPECIFICALLY 690 PEOPLE. THIS IS ALSO AN EXERCISE IN "NEW REALISM". CONGRESS HAS DEMANDED THAT WE PERFORM -- I HOPE, THIS YEAR, THAT IT WILL GIVE HUD THE PERFORMERS WHO ARE NECESSARY.

IT'S A GOOD BUDGET BECAUSE IT CONCENTRATES ON THE REAL NATIONAL OBJECTIVES IN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

THERE ARE TWO AREAS OF DECREASING FUNDING.

FIRST, THE 701 PROGRAM IS DECREASING AS WE INCREASE FUNDING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR PLANNING.

SECOND, SUBSIDIES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATIONS ARE ALSO DECREASING IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PLAN TO CONFORM THE INCOME DEFINITIONS IN OUR SECTION 8 WITH PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS; AND TO INCLUDE A REVENUE STANDARD IN THE PERFORMANCE FUNDING SYSTEM.



I AM SATISFIED AND PLEASED WITH HUD'S 1977 BUDGET. I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT ONE TO DO THE RIGHT JOB FOR AMERICA IN ACTUALLY HELPING TO HOUSE OUR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME AMERICAN PEOPLE.

WHERE WE HAVE MADE CUTS, WE HAVE NOT CUT PROGRAMS SIMPLY TO CONFORM WITH GIVEN NUMBERS. RATHER, THEY REPRESENT PRAGMATIC PROGRAM CHANGES THAT WILL USE THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE TO THE NATION AND TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE, PARTICULARLY.

AL KLIMAN WILL NOW PRESENT THE FIGURES -- AFTER WHICH, I'LL BE PLEASED TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.