MEMORANDUM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
CABINET MEETING

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, December 5, 1973
10:00 a.m.

PLACE: The Cabinet Room

SUBJECTS: Budget and Energy

Simon gives an energy organization briefing.

President: I will participate heavily and regularly in these energy meetings. Especially on major decisions like rationing -- that can’t be done on a knee-jerk reaction.

On short range problems we need a sense of direction. We should have small rather than large meetings. It makes decisions easier.

Now for the budget.

Ash: The 1975 income is estimated at $292 billion. Projected outlays are somewhat above that. Congressional "add ons" could add $7.5 billion.

The energy crisis we estimate will cost $2 to 3 billion.

Controllable budget items have increased from 60 percent to 75 percent of the total since 1967. And we really control less -- because DOD, etc. have to be maintained, so we actually have only 5-10 percent discretionary items. For 1975 we estimate a $24.7 billion increase in uncontrollables.
Dear [Name],

I'm writing to discuss our plans for the upcoming conference. It looks like we're going to be working on a paper that focuses on the impact of renewable energy sources on local economies. I've been reading some articles on the topic, and I think we should start by looking at the data on how much renewable energy is currently being generated in our area.

I've also been thinking about the potential benefits of implementing a local energy grid, similar to the one in [City]. We could use this as a case study to show how decentralizing energy generation can help reduce carbon emissions and increase local economic stability.

As for the paper, I think we should aim to have a rough draft ready by the end of next week. Let me know if you have any suggestions for additional data sources or research papers we should look into.

Best regards,

[Your Name]