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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

CABINET MEETING	PARTICIPANTS:	President Nixon The Cabinet
DATE:	March 28, 1974	

PLACE: The Cabinet Room

<u>President:</u> I want to know where the Cabinet members see their Departments going over the next three years. What are your longterm goals?

The Legislative program is completely stalled on the Hill. It is time to call the leaders down here and put the word to them. But it's not our guys who are responsible -- it's the Democrats.

Let's draw up a scorecard of where Congress is. Let's put down ten or less issues which are understandable to the public.

Commerce Secretary Dent: (Talks about legislative program:)

-- Trade bill.

-- Shift to metric system over next ten years.

-- Economic assistance to states, in lump-sum grants.

-- The Export Control Act -- which expires in June -- allows us to control critical items, and hopefully renewal will let us deal with things like the oil embargo.

<u>President:</u> Trade legislation is a loser in the public mind. There's no interest. Fred, you fight all-out so that American interests are not treated in a discriminatory way. State will argue because they have to give it away, but your job is to protect American business.

DBCLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5 NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines By <u>Cal.</u>, NARA, Det <u>9/23/08</u>

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Our candidates might be able to run against the Congress this fall-like the Democrats did in '48.

Harlow: We have to be careful not to whack the friendly Democrats.

President: Cap, what are the education prospects?

Weinberger: Education, health insurance, and welfare. The welfare rolls are down, for the first time ever, in 1973. We will save about \$11.6 billion.

<u>President:</u> Welfare is the most emotional issue you have. Be sure to include work incentives in any program you develop.

Rog (Morton), the major emphasis today should be on energy. Next time, though, cover the park system--especially in connection with the Bicentennial.

<u>President:</u> (Gave a speech about the elections--comparing the situation to 1948 and '66. He said the Republicans have trouble being for something--because they are conservative. This year the Democrats will be running against--we <u>must</u> be for. We can stand on the record and the progress we are pushing -- and that the Congress is preventing these programs from going through.)

Morton: We have to expand oil fields where we have to go into supply by 1980 to reach our energy goals. We have over 4,000 law suits in court.

(Described some of the critical ones.)

I am getting nowhere on gas deregulation.

Oil shale is going well.



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