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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *RF*.

REMARKS AT THE SIGNING OF  
THE BUDGET MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1975

NO SINGLE ACT A PRESIDENT CAN TAKE SETS FORTH OUR  
NATIONAL GOALS AND PRIORITIES SO COMPLETELY -- SO CLEARLY --  
AS THE ANNUAL BUDGET MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS. THAT IS  
WHY I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE HERE THIS MORNING SO  
MANY OF YOU WHO WORKED SO LONG ON THIS DOCUMENT -- TO  
WITNESS THIS SIGNING CEREMONY WHICH IS THE CULMINATION  
OF THESE EFFORTS.

BOTH CUSTOM AND GOOD MANNERS CALL FOR THE CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE TO SEEK THE COOPERATION OF THE CONGRESS --  
AND TO PLEDGE HIS OWN -- AS HE SUBMITS THE BUDGET.

THE SIZE OF THE PROJECTED DEFICIT REQUIRES ME TO GO FAR  
BEYOND CUSTOM AND GOOD MANNERS IN PLEDGING MY UTMOST  
COOPERATION. TOGETHER, WE MUST STIMULATE THE ECONOMY  
AND REDUCE THE RATE AT WHICH CERTAIN FEDERAL EXPENDITURES  
HAVE BEEN GROWING IN THE PAST TEN YEARS.

IF THESE WERE NORMAL ECONOMIC TIMES, THE CONGRESS  
WOULD BE RECEIVING A BUDGET IN BALANCE FOR THE COMING  
FISCAL YEAR RATHER THAN ONE WITH SUCH A LARGE DEFICIT.

BUT THESE ARE NOT NORMAL TIMES, AND THE MEASURES  
I PROPOSE -- TO GIVE THE ECONOMY A BOOST WITH TAX REBATES  
AND REDUCTIONS, AND TO PROVIDE GREATLY EXPANDED ASSISTANCE  
TO THE UNEMPLOYED -- ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME OF THE DEFICIT.  
LAGGING RECEIPTS FROM TAX REVENUES CONTRIBUTE TO MOST OF THE  
REMAINDER OF THIS DEFICIT.

WITHOUT QUESTION, OUR IMMEDIATE TASK IS THE RESTORATION OF ACTIVE GROWTH IN OUR ECONOMY -- AND THAT GOAL IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECTED BUDGET DEFICIT.

TO SUSTAIN OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER THE LONG HAUL, WE MUST BEGIN NOW TO SET A NEW COURSE THAT WILL BRING OUR FUTURE NATIONAL BUDGETS INTO BALANCE DURING PERIODS OF GOOD ECONOMIC GROWTH.

ALTHOUGH THIS BUDGET CARRIES WITH IT A FIFTY-TWO BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT, THIS AMOUNT WILL BE EVEN LARGER IF THE CONGRESS FAILS TO GO ALONG WITH REDUCTIONS TOTALING SEVENTEEN BILLION DOLLARS WHICH I HAVE REQUESTED. IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE LONG-RANGE ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THIS COUNTRY, FREE FROM EVER-RISING INFLATION, WE MUST PUT INTO EFFECT PERMANENT REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAM EXPENDITURES.

AS I SAID AT THE PRESS BRIEFING ON THE BUDGET LAST SATURDAY, IT HAS BECOME A COMMONLY ACCEPTED VIEW THAT SOME GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES ARE UNCONTROLLABLE -- THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT. I FIRMLY REJECT THAT VIEW. THEY ARE CONTROLLABLE IF THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT JOIN TOGETHER TO HOLD DOWN EXCESSIVE SPENDING. THIS BUDGET IS DESIGNED TO BRING SOME OF THESE SO-CALLED "UNCONTROLLABLE" PROGRAMS BACK INTO LINE. I ASK THE CONGRESS TO WORK WITH ME TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE.

EVEN WITH THE STEPS I HAVE PROPOSED TO RETURN TO FISCAL INTEGRITY, THIS BUDGET CONTINUES THE STEADY AND SHARP ANNUAL INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS -- TO THOSE AMERICANS WHO NEED HELP MOST FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT. THESE PAYMENTS WILL INCREASE BY FIFTEEN BILLION DOLLARS IN THE 1976 FISCAL YEAR OVER 1975 . . . FROM ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN BILLION TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO BILLION DOLLARS. THESE PAYMENTS INCLUDE INCREASED AMOUNTS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY, WELFARE, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION, AND RETIREMENT PAYMENTS.

SUCH PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS HAVE INCREASED STEADILY  
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL BUDGET. UNTIL THEY NOW ACCOUNT  
FOR MORE THAN FORTY PERCENT OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

DESPITE THE HUGE DEFICIT WE PROJECT, THE BUDGET BEING  
SUBMITTED TODAY IS A COMPASSIONATE ONE. IT HAS MUSCLE  
AS WELL. IT HAS DISCIPLINE AND HONEST SELF-DENIAL.  
IT IS A START IN A NEW DIRECTION ALONG THE PERMANENT ROAD  
OF FISCAL INTEGRITY WHICH AMERICANS MUST ACHIEVE FOR THE  
LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY.

I AM PLEASED THAT ROY ASH AND SOME OF HIS STAFF FROM  
THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET COULD BE HERE TODAY --  
BECAUSE ROY IS RETURNING SHORTLY TO PRIVATE LIFE.

LIKE THE GOOD SOLDIER HE IS, ROY STAYED ON TO FINISH  
THE JOB HE BEGAN IN PUTTING THIS BUDGET TOGETHER. HE STUCK  
TO IT UNTIL THE LAST COMMA AND THE FINAL PERIOD WERE IN PLACE.

ROY MAY BE ONE OF THE MOST UNAPPRECIATED MEN IN  
WASHINGTON -- BUT NOT BY ME. I WILL MISS HIS "TOUGH"  
INSTINCTS AND SOUND COUNSEL.

JAMES LYNN WILL BE TAKING OVER A TIGHT SHIP FROM ROY,  
AND I LOOK TO HIM TO ENHANCE FURTHER THE CAPABILITY OF SOLID  
MANAGEMENT SO NECESSARY TO THAT OFFICE.

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, A SIMPLE "THANKS" MAY SOUND  
INADEQUATE. BUT THE DICTIONARY DEFINES THE TERM AS AN  
EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION. AND THAT IS  
WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION -- AND THIS PRESIDENT -- OWES  
ROY ASH.

ROY, I HATE TO SEE YOU GO BUT I MUST WARN YOU:  
I HAVE YOUR UNLISTED TELEPHONE NUMBER IN LOS ANGELES.

END OF TEXT

SIGN THE HOUSE COPY FIRST  
THEN THE SENATE COPY

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS *PA*  
SUBJECT: STATEMENT FOR SIGNING OF THE BUDGET  
MESSAGE

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_

10:00 a.m., Monday, February 3, in the Cabinet Room

SPEECHWRITER: Fred Bird

EDITED BY: Paul Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

OMB

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