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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 6, 1973

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

### THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESS CONFERENCE OF SENATOR HUGH SCOTT AND CONGRESSMAN GERALD R. FORD



THE BRIEFING ROOM

AT 10:10 A.M. EST

MR. ZIEGLER: The President met with the Leaders this morning, Senator Scott and Congressman Ford, in his office. The meeting began at 8:30 and just ended. They met for over an hour and a half, and Congressman Ford and Senator Scott are here to talk to you briefly about the meeting and take some of your questions.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: The main purpose of the meeting this morning with the President was to describe to the President how the House and Senate, on the Republican side, were going to continue their fight to hold the line on spending. When we came out of the meeting, I was handed a news clipping which, interestingly enough, indicates that the Democratic leaders are launching a move in the House to force the President to spend better than \$14 billion of money that was appropriated by the Congress, but that the President feels can be held in reserve or not spent in order to save the taxpayers dollars. And we, as Republicans, are delighted that the Democrats, in their lust for spending, are now taking up the challenge that we like to meet them head on, and I want you to know, very categorically, that on the House side, we welcome the Democratic admission that they are going to force, or try to force the President to spend \$14 billion in this fiscal year that he, in his judgment, thinks ought not to be spent.

And I think, because the American people are on a his side, that we can win this battle in the House on the various authorizations and appropriations that are coming before us in the next several weeks.

I might add one other point. My Democratic friends fail to tell the American people that even though the President is saving in those programs that can no longer be justified, and there is a long list, that the President's budget for fiscal '74 opens up new opportunities for the areas where you can justify additional spending, and let me point out one or two things.

The President's budget increases, as I recollect, about 20 percent in funding for heart and cancer. The President's budget recommends about an eight percent increase in law enforcement and drug abuse control. The President's budget recommends an increase in energy research, and when you get down to the problem of the OEO -- I was out home last weekend and, of course, all the Democratic propaganda had convinced a lot of people that OEO as such was going to be totally eliminated. The facts are that the health programs under OEO are going to be continued. The facts are that Head Start is going to be continued and the facts are that if the Congress approves legislation to establish a legal services organization, that legal services will be continued.

It is only those parts of OEO that have failed to meet the test of really providing necessary services where the Federal Government is not going to spend.



Now, if the Democrats want to battle us on that issue, we welcome the challenge in the House of Representatives.

SENATOR SCOTT: Senator Humphrey this morning has characterized the Administration budget as an entry into an era of domestic retreat, and I am afraid that Senator Humphrey doesn't know the difference between advance and retreat, and we will have to teach him his bugle calls all over again.

The 1973 federal outlays are eight percent more than '72. 1974 federal outlays are eight percent more than '73. The 1973 human resource outlays are 13 percent over '72, and 1974 human resource outlays are eight percent over '73, and in fact, the 1974 human resources outlays will double those of 1969. That is hardly a retreat.

In 1974 federal grants to State and local governments, in view of what some of the Governors have said, will be \$10 billion greater than in 1972. In fact, the amounts provided in the three fiscal years, 1972, 1973 and 1974, are greater than the total amounts provided in the decade of the '60s during the so-called Great Society Program.

General **revenue** sharing was and is incremental money. Grants to State and local governments are increasing even without it. And as to the four special revenue sharing proposals, they provide in the aggregate more than the categorical programs they supplant.

Maybe \$250 billion is hard to comprehend, but the federal budget comes to \$100 a month for every man, woman and child in this country and we are already paying \$50,000 a minute, day and night, for interest on the national debt. We are spending a greater sum of money than has heretofore been spent, because the needs are greater.

But if the Democrats want to join issue on whether or not they will soak the American people with a \$14 billion excess over and above the eight percent increases in these two years, we will gladly join with them in that issue.

I think personally to ask the Democrats to hold down spending is like asking an alcoholic to be your bartender.

Q Do you gentlemen agree with President Nixon's apparent view that no matter what the Congress appropriates funds for, the President can impound them and does not have to spend them?



SENATOR SCOTT: I believe that as Senator Harry Truman of Missouri once said on the Floor of the Senate, no one contends that the Congress expects the President to spend all of the money that is sent to him.

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I believe that the President is within his constitutional authority when he decides that certain funds do not have to be spent within a given period of time and that others do not have to be spent at all.

I think actually most of the Members of Congress realize that they are not going to prevail in the attempt to prevent the President from saving money by reserving some of these funds.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: May I add a comment to that?

In the fight we had last year over the spending ceiling, in the House version, and I think in the final version --the final version being really no effective control -- the Democrats, who controlled it and wrote it, indicated clearly that they anticipated impoundments and they asked the President to itemize them. So they recognize that Presidents, going back a long, long time, have exercised that authority in order to not waste money, even though Congress had in the first instance made the appropriation.

Now, let me take a specific example. Supposing Congress appropriated, we will say, \$100 million for the construction of some hydroelectric power dam. Supposing the Corps of Engineers were able to get a contract for \$98 million. Should the President spend the \$2 million that the contract saved? I don't think so.

And in those circumstances, of course, the President shouldn't spend the extra \$2 million.

Q Senator Scott, then does the Congress enact appropriations as laws or as mere advisory?

SENATOR SCOTT: The Congress enacts appropriations as laws, but as Senator Truman of Missouri said, it is not expected and no one expects in the Congress that the President will expend necessarily all of the money which the Congress sends to him.

Q How do you differentiate legally then between appropriation of the law and any other law which an average citizen may be expected to obey, such as a tax law?

SENATOR SCOTT: I would differentiate by an appeal, first of all, to common sense. If we suppose that the need for a program expires totally within the fiscal year, who in this room would expect the **President** to be compelled to spend it. It is a judgmental decision which he makes.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I might add one specific on this.

The Congress appropriated funds last year for the Selective Service on the anticipation and the record that we would have a draft all though this fiscal year.

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Because of circumstances, we are not drafting anybody in the last six months of fiscal year 1973.

Now the President shouldn't spend the money for Selective Service that was predicated on having an active draft all during fiscal year 1973. The President has to have some flexibility, and I think it is historically true that Presidents have used that flexibility and they are not, in my judgment, obligated to spend every time that Congress appropriates, because Congress, on many occasions, has acted irresponsibly in the fiscal field and Congress, in many instances, will appropriate money in anticipation of one circumstance and those circumstances change and the President shouldn't spend the money just because it was appropriated.

Q Mr. Ford, is there some way, you cite an example of a program which is being abolished with the good will of Congress, now if there is some program that Congress, perhaps even the Republican Members of Congress, want to see maintained and the President doesn't like it, is there some way that Congress can say, "Our judgment differs from you on this, please go ahead and spend it."

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I think we are engaged in a struggle to some extent now. We have roughly 14 bills that the President vetoed at the end of the last session. The Democrats are now in the process of trying to force him to spend money under those programs.

We will have a test as to whether or not the President is right in trying to hold down expenditures for programs that can't be justified and the Congress will exercise or work its will.

I think the President is going to win in this battle, because the public supports him and not the Congress.

Q All right, but if your political judgment should be mistaken and the Congress can get the votes to keep on passing these bills to override vetoes, would he then have to spend it?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I think that will be a matter that will be decided by the courts.

Q Senator Scott, do you fully go along with the President's priorities for spending? In other words, isn't it possible to reduce the defense budget or other places to get money to spend for the programs that apparently the majority of the Congress wants to spend?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, the new budget is about, nearly \$20 billion more than the last one, and only \$4 billion of that increase, as I recall it, is for defense. And most of that is accounted for because Congress itself, by its own action, increased the pay of the armed services and I think we all voted for it.

The rest of it is either the fixed charges or domestic needs, so it seems to me we have provided ample leeway for the meeting of necessary domestic needs.



Q In other words, you are totally satisfied with the budget as it is, and you give the President full power to determine the priorities of spending and programs in this country?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, I am making the distinction that that is the President's right to make the judgment. It doesn't mean I agree on every single one of those priorities. I am from one of the 50 States. We have our own constituencies and in those 50 States our view of the priorities differs perhaps from the President in some of these issues, but the main question is that the buck stops at the President.

Only one man can make that final decision, so it doesn't matter that I might disagree on some given program or not. I might want to see it continued, but the President may feel that other programs, having more merit and which get more for the taxpayer's dollar, are more desirable and he alone, in my judgment, will be able to make that decision.

If the Democrats want to crusade for a 15 percent tax increase, which is the effect of the \$14 billion demand, they can have that side of the issue.

Q Senator, there has been a lot of criticism by Mayors and Governors that the President's programs so far to Congress, messages, have lacked specifics. For example, you know, we passed the crisis in the cities and so forth. Do you think that he has come forth yet with any sound programs?

SENATOR SCOTT: These programs are being outlined. The President has outlined a number of them already in radio addresses. There is more money to be spent for the cities through general and special revenue sharing and some categorical grants than before.

I think the Mayors and the Governors, all of them, or nearly all of them, are acting like Oliver Twist. It is natural they would ask for more and more and more, because if they can't get it from the Federal Government they will have to exercise some local responsibilities and this is a painful decision to make.

MORE



CONGRESSMAN FORD: I might add a point on that. I have talked to some Mayors in the last several days. The Mayors recognize that special revenue sharing is preferable from their point of view to these categorical grants that are a real burden to them in their number of applications they have to file, and if the Congress would follow the President's recommendations, and come up with special revenue sharing, it would cut out the red tape, they would actually get more money, and they would have far greater flexibility to meet the problems in their local communities.

I understand that the Mayor of Detroit, after taking a look at the alternative proposed by the President, does feel that special revenue sharing, if the Congress would move on it, is preferable to these numerous categorical grant programs they have been struggling with over the years.

I don't think Mayors do support the extension of categorical grant programs, but they want the Congress to move on special revenue sharing so that they will know to some extent what they are going to get and how they are going to operate and this is Congress's fault.

Q How confident are you that Congress will pass special revenue sharing?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: Well, the Democrats in the Congress seem to be defending the status quo, which is categorical grant programs. I think they are making a mistake. I hope they change their minds and will move away from categorical grant programs.

It is my expectation we will have an opportunity to pass some of these special revenue sharing proposals before the end of this fiscal year, so the appropriation committees can fund special revenue sharing in 1974 rather than ---

Q But you are not confident?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I think it is a 50-50 possibility. We are certainly going to work on it and with the help of the Mayors, and I hope the Governors, we can make this transition from categorical to special revenue sharing.

Q The fiscal year doesn't have much time to go, and the Administration hasn't sent these special revenue sharing bills up. Have you found out when they are going to get it?

CONGRESSMAN FORD: It is my anticipation that those proposals will be before the Congress within the next several weeks. That gives Congress ample time between now and June 30th to do something about it.

Q Mr. Ford, what do you think the proper role of Congress should be in all this? You seem to be suggesting that the Congress should merely be a rubber stamp on what the President wants and even if it isn't, he is going ahead and do it anyway, so they have no function at all.

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CONGRESSMAN FORD: I don't think so. The Congress working with other Presidents, has built up a number of categorical grant programs that looked, as we see it today, not the best way to spend the money.

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Q I am talking about overall.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: All right, now, the Congress ought not to defend necessarily the status quo, and if the Congress is going to do that, I think the President has to take some drastic action and I support him, because I don't believe what we did 20 years ago is necessarily the answer to what we ought to do in the next ten years.

SENATOR SCOTT: The President's action in reserving these funds isn't something new. I don't know why this furor didn't build up over the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations when it went as high as 8.7 percent, an average of six percent reservation of funds. The President's reservations are about three and one-half percent.

I don't know why the Democrats didn't object when their own Presidents were reserving more funds and taking 20 percent in money, and now all of a sudden when a Republican President does it, it is indicated that there is something wrong about it.

I don't see the analogy at all. Where were you, where were all of you when Johnson was doing it? I think it is a fair question.

Q Senator, isn't there a difference there? Wasn't the money eventually spent? It was impounded for a period and then spent?

SENATOR SCOTT: I don't think it was all eventually spent.

Q A good portion of it?

SENATOR SCOTT: Some of it was spent. Some of this may ultimately be spent. We have no way of knowing.

Q Isn't there another difference in that it is now being used to totally end programs, whereas in previous Administrations it was not that way?

SENATOR SCOTT: In most cases, no. Some are being ended. In most cases the programs are not being ended. If you take OEO, the only major part that is being ended is the community action agencies. All the rest are being transferred, as Jerry said -- community development, migrants, Indians, neighborhood health centers, Head Start, legal services. So that most are not being ended. Some are being ended because they are not working, some are being ended because they don't have as much merit as the substitutes proposed by the President. I think he has a right to propose alternatives.

Q The Democrats generally, and Senator Humphrey specifically today said they want to stay within the spending ceiling of \$269 billion, or whatever it is, but they want to transfer more of the money from the federal budget to a domestic budget. How does this qualify as lustful and drunken conduct, to use your combined phrases?

SENATOR SCOTT: What is the difference between a Federal and a domestic budget? I don't quite follow you. You said they wanted to transfer from a Federal budget to a domestic.

I am sorry, from military to a domestic budget.

SENATOR SCOTT: That is the ancient scapegoat. It isn't there. The Congress normally reduces the defense budget by five percent or something of that sort, and then they announce that they have reduced the totals of what the President has asked for. Then they add three or four times as much in the other departments. These claims that I have heard on television by various Democratic Senators that they can cut defense by ten percent, I don't think will hold water, unless they want to actually, seriously pare down our defense and our National security.

After all, the big item and by far the largest single item in the defense budget is salary, pay and the support which goes to the personnel, and I don't remember the figure, but it comes close to being half of the whole. Where they are going to save, I don't know, unless they are simply not going to build ships, not going to build planes, and not going to defend their country. One of the arguments goes to a reduction in national defense.

The other argument goes toward an inevitable tax increase and I think they are caught in a bind between the two.

Q May we change the topic for a minute?

Do you have any comments on the Black September group, the punishment for them?

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, I have not heard whether any punishment has been meted out. I don't believe it has.

Q Do you favor the death penalty and do you think it is the sense of the Congress to favor the death penalty?

SENATOR SCOTT: I hope they shoot them all and the sooner the better.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: I share that and I think that it is the only way to have any deterrent from subsequent actions of this kind. The world at large is condemning this kind of terriorist activity and the only way to stop it is to take the most drastic action, which I think is to mete out a death sentence by one form or another.

Q Senator Scott, could I ask one more question?

A couple of weeks ago on the Hill, I believe you were quoted as telling the reporters they should ask the President again about his stand on amnesty. And he was asked and it hasn't changed. Can you tell us why you thought there might be reason to ask?

SENATOR SCOTT: No, I am not going to rehash it. You played it up pretty well and I am not going to go into it again.

MORE

Q Let me try again. Despite the flap over this, what is the proper role for Congress in this? Simply to go along with the President and do what he wants?

SENATOR SCOTT: Obviously, you know and I know that you know that isn't the answer. The answer is for Congress to meet its responsibility. The answer is for Congress to fix its own spending ceilings, its own budget, to establish its own priorities, to act responsibly, and to follow Scott's law. Scott's law is if Congress can't add, the President will subtract so that our taxes don't multiply.

THE PRESS: Thank you, gentlemen.

END

(AT 10:32 A.M. EST)

FORD

## PROPOSED AGENDA FOR REPUBLICAN LEADERS' MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT MARCH 6, 1973



- 1. Need for greater public awareness that Administration is not terminating but reshuffling and even expanding some worthy domestic programs. Possibility of releasing some impoundments.
- 2. Increased Executive contacts with GOP members of House and Senate.
- 3. Prospects of sustaining vetoes on 14 selected bills.
- 4. Trip to Paris.
- 5. Trade Bill, Soviet Exis Visas and the Most Pavored Nation problem.
- 6. Energy Message and others.
- 7. Legislative outlook for the coming week.

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2. How agreed topics are to be raised (who does what?)

3. CBS documentary on Executive-Legislative power struggle.

1. Legislative outlook for coming week.

#### SENATE

S. 50 - Passed 2/20/73 Y-82 N- 9=

s.

- S. 467 Pending before Public Works Committee
- S. 263 Pending before Interior Committee
- S. 38 Passed 2/5/73 **Y-65** N-15
- S. 39 Passed 2/21/73 **Y-89**
- S. 606 Passed 2/1/73 Y-67 N-14

S. 49 - Coming up tomorrow 3/6/73

S. 59 - Coming up tomorrow 3/6/73

### BILLS

Older Americans Act 1

Research on Aging

Public Works & EDA Amendments

Amendments to Mining & Mineral Policy

Airport Development

Anti-Hijacking

Flood Control

Upgrading of Deputy U.S. Marshals

National Cemetery Act

Veterans Health Care

#### HOUSE

- H.R. 71 On Whip Notice for Wed. or bal. of week. Subject to a rule.
- H.R. 65 Pending before Interstate & For. Commerce Committee
- H.R. 2246 Pending before Public Works Committee
- H.R. 5079 (Saylor) Pending before Interior Committee
- H.R. 4082 Committee on Interstate & Foreign Commerce begin hearings 3/14/73
- H.R. 3858 Committee on Interstate & Foreign Commerce began hearings 2/28; hearings will continue
- H.R. 4904 & H.R. 4905 Committee on Public Works hearings scheduled for 3/8/73

H.R. 2828 - Pending before Committe on Veterana Affairs

H.R. 2900 - Pending before Committe on Veterans Affairs



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SENATE	BILLS	HOUSE
S. 7 - Passed 2/28/73 Y-86 N- 2	Vocational Rehabilitation	H.R. 17 - On Whip Notice for Wed. or balance of week.
H.R. 2107 - Passed 3/1/73 Y-71 N-10	REAP	H.R. 2107 - Passed 2/7/73 Y-251 N-142
S. 394 - Passed 2/21/73 Y-69 N-20	REA Extension	H.R. 2276 - Committee on Agricult will meet in Executive 3/6/73
H.R. 3298 - Committee on Agriculture to take up in Executive Session 3/7/73	Rural Water and Sewer	H.R. 3298 - Passed 3/1/73 W-297 N- 54



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TO: GRF

FROM: RTH

## Proposed Agenda for Republican Leaders' Meeting March 5, 1973

- 1. Topics to discuss with the President on March 6.
  - a. Prospects of sustaining vetoes on 14 selected bills.

GOP

- b. Increased contacts with/members of House and Senate.
- c. Need for greater public awareness that Administration is not terminating but reshuffling worthy domestic programs.
- d. Trip to Paris. e. Soviet Eit Visa fees and Most Favored Nation clause . Others?
- 2. How agreed topics are to be raised (who does what?)
- 3. CBS documentary on Executive-Legislative power struggle.
- 4. Legislative outlook for coming week.



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CONGRESSIONAL PROSPECTS TO SUSTAIN OR OVERRIDE VETOED BILLS

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S. 50 - Passed 2/20/73 Y-82 N- 9	Older Americans Act	H.R. 71 - On Whip Notice for Wed. or bal. of week. Sub- ject to a rule.
s.	Research on Aging	H.R. 65 - Pending before Interstate & For. Commerce Committee
S. 467 - Pending before Public Works Committee	Public Works & EDA Amendments	H.R. 2246 - Pending before Public Works Committee
S. 263 - Pending before Interior Commit	Amendments to Mining & Mineral Policy $\smile$	H.R. 5079 (Saylor) - Pending before Interior Committee
S. 38 - Passed 2/5/73 Y-65 N-15	Airport Development	H.R. 4082 - Committee on Interstate & Foreign Commerce begin hearings 3/14/73
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S. 606 - Passed 2/1/73 Y-67 N-14	Flood Control	H.R. 4904 & H.R. 4905 - Committee on Public Works hearings scheduled for 3/8/73
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S. 49 - Coming up tomorro 3/6/73	w National Cemetery Act	H.R. 2828 - Pending before Committee on Veterans Affairs
S. 59 - Coming up tomorro 3/6/73	w Veterans Health Care	H.R. 2900 - Pending before Committee on Veterans Affairs

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H.R. 3298 - Committee on Agriculture to take up in Executive Session	Rural Water and Sewer		H.R. 3298 - Passed 3/1/73 Y-297 N- 54

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