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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 9, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Dallas, Texas)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
IRVING BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW DAY DINNER

TEXAS STADIUM
IRVING, TEXAS

9:36 P.M. CST

Martin, Senator Tower, President John Lawrence, Ed Kincaid, members of the judiciary, members of the Irving Bar Association, guests:

It is a very great privilege and honor for me to have the opportunity of coming to Irving and participating in the Law Day ceremonies here in this part of the State of Texas.

I have had the privilege and honor a good many times to visit many parts of the State of Texas. Fortunately, I have had a good many acquaintances, and my closest friend and acquaintances are, or have been, the Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate from your State, one of whom is here this evening, John Tower.

I must say -- and I say this with emphasis and sincerity -- having spent 25 years in the Congress, you get to know good delegations and those that don't quite make it. John Tower represents the high quality of the Texas delegation, whether they are Democrat or Republican, and as I said, members of your delegation have been my very closest and best friends, whether on my side of the aisle or on the other.

I want to compliment your State in having such outstanding statesmen represent you in Washington, D.C., and John Tower is one of them.

Texas, they tell me, is number one in the country in many, many important ways -- number one in cattle production, number one in oil production, number one in cotton and often number one in football. (Laughter)

I am delighted to see tonight that you are certainly still second to none in hospitality, and for that I thank you very, very much.

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Now, in observance of Law Day here in Irving, I thought it would be tremendously appropriate if I directed my remarks to an increasingly serious problem all across America, and when I say "all across America", I mean its totality, and I hope and trust that you will not misunderstand what I say tonight by indirection or otherwise that I might be talking just about Texas.

This is a problem that affects all 50 States, and I think it is time that all of us, whether we are from Texas or Michigan or elsewhere, that we get a refocus on this serious matter that involves a good many fine people in our society.

As practitioners of the law, as leaders of your community, as loving parents, all of you must share my very deepening concern about a new wave of drug abuse that is affecting our Nation.

Only a few short years ago, many of you will recall the United States was faced with a virtual epidemic of drug abuse, large quantities of opium was coming out of poppy fields from countries such as Turkey, they were converted into heroin in port cities in France, and from there were smuggled into the United States.

This country mounted a massive, active campaign against illicit drug traffic, and with the cooperation of law enforcement officials, both here and abroad, we eventually broke the back of the so-called "French Connection".

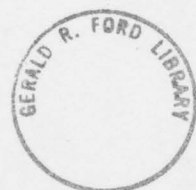
There was good reason to be pleased because it seems we had not only turned the corner in drug abuse, but we had also begun to make significant strides in street crime problems.

Our success, however, did not last as long as most of us would have hoped. The heroin trade has now shifted to other countries, and today there is a renewed and alarming flow of drug trafficking into this country.

The time has come to step up our fight, sharpen the weapons in our arsenal and launch a new and far more aggressive attack against this insidious enemy. The cost of drug abuse to this Nation is staggering, and I had the benefit of the various agencies and departments in the Government give me a two-hour briefing earlier this week, and the information, the facts are unbelievable.

Every year more than 5,000 Americans die from direct drug-related causes. Every year more than 170,000 injuries can be directly traced to drugs. Every year the problem of drug abuse costs up to \$17 billion.

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Significantly, the greatest bulk of this \$17 billion is money lost through crime. Law enforcement officials estimate that up to one-half robberies, muggings, burglaries and other forms of property crimes are committed by addicts to support their expensive and debilitating habit.

These statistics, as ominous as they are, reflect only part of the traffic total. For every teenage child killed by a drug overdose, there are thousands and thousands of others who do not die but continue only the motions of living. They sit in classrooms without learning, they grow isolated from their families and from their friends. When they should be preparing for the future, they can hardly cope with the present.

And this disease is by no means limited to youth or to any other particular group in our society -- the suburban housewife, the worker on the assembly line, the white collar professional, nobody is immune.

As you know, 80 to 90 percent of the heroin coming into the United States today has come across the border from Mexico. The problem is not an easy one to cope with. There are as many as 20,000 small poppy fields hidden in the mountainous terrain of the Sierra Madre.

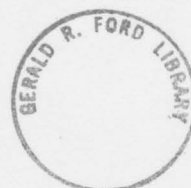
With the new equipment that we have, not only the aircraft, whether it is fixed wing or helicopter and with the traffic capability, you can see these relatively small, but very productive and very financially beneficial, poppy fields.

And I pledge to you tonight that we will spare no effort to crush the menace of drug abuse.

Clearly, as we look at the picture today, our first defense must be directed at our own borders to clamp down on the illegal flow of drugs from foreign sources. And as I mentioned a moment ago, 80 to 90 percent of the current flow of heroin comes across the Mexican border, having been moved from what had previously been the case with Turkey and several other countries.

The drugs that come from these fields might be smuggled here in any way, any one of almost a million vehicles a week that cross border check points, or aboard any one of 4,000 aircraft that illegally penetrated the border last year or even in the backpack of someone who illegally walks across the 2,000-mile border that we share with Mexico.

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Fortunately -- and I think we are fortunate -- the Government of Mexico, under the leadership of President Echeverria has been increasingly concerned with this problem and has cracked down very hard on both the growers and the traffickers.

With help provided by our Government -- this help includes helicopters and other advanced equipment and committing substantial resources of our own -- the Government of Mexico is undertaking the biggest and most effective crop eradication program in its history. Thousands upon thousands of fields have already been wiped out.

While many of these fields can and will be replanted, the Government also plans for the first time to maintain a year round eradication program. This is the only way that you can really stop the growth of this into our country.

The efforts made on their side of the border have been very substantial and they have been aided by what we have done on our own side through the combined efforts of Federal, State and local authorities. In particular, I would like to compliment the law enforcement officials of Texas.

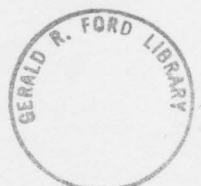
The people in the Federal Government tell me that they get maximum help and assistance from your State, as well as local officials. So, speaking for the Federal Government, may I thank you and indicate our great appreciation.

Your people have done a fine job in helping to control the flow of illegal drugs and they not only deserve your thanks, but they deserve the appreciation of many, many thousands of Americans throughout the other States of the Union because if you look at the flow charts, they bring these drugs across the border and they fan out in almost organized routes that end up in Chicago or New York or any one of the other places.

So, what is done at the border, or what is done behind the border in Mexico is significant from the point of view of the people in the other States of the Union. I believe, and I believe very strongly, that the leaders of Mexico feel that together we seized a great opportunity and we, working together in conjunction with one another, can stem the tide of new drug invasion within a year.

That is a hard goal, that is a tough accomplishment, but with their cooperation and our joint efforts, and with the help and assistance of local and State officials in Texas and elsewhere, we can effectually achieve a substantial reduction in the supply at the source, as well as crossing the border.

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But frankly, our efforts must not stop there. We must also accelerate our law enforcement efforts here throughout our own country.

Frankly, despite all the rhetoric of recent years, I do not believe that we have yet succeeded in making it tough enough for drug traffickers.

As far as I am concerned, and I think this is shared by virtually everybody in the Congress, the House, as well as the Senate, the people who traffic in hard drugs are nothing less than merchants of death and should be put behind bars for a long, long, long time.

Yet the Justice Department studies show that more than a quarter of those convicted of narcotics trafficking do not spend a single day in jail. The extraordinary laxity that sometimes exists was illustrated just last month in a case when law enforcement officers arrested 31 people, most of whom were major violators responsible for very large shipments of heroin into the United States, 19 of those arrested were immediately freed on a \$500 personal recognizant bond, even though their offenses were punishable by 15 years in jail.

All but two of the 19 had long, long arrest records, and one was on parole for narcotics offense -- unforgiveable, completely indefensible.

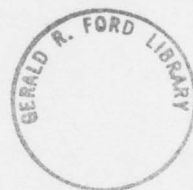
I believe that we have to close legal loopholes that permit traffickers to escape the Federal penitentiary. Those who live off the misery of others must pay the price, and the higher the price, the better, as I see it.

To his great credit, the new head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Peter Bensinger, who independently is off to a very fine start, quickly intervened in the case that I mentioned. Warrants were reissued for the 19, and bail was raised to \$10,000 for each of the others.

I can't tell you the end result because it hasn't been concluded, and we shouldn't talk about individual cases by name. But something has to be done to prevent the kind of an illustration that I indicated.

Last year, the Administration sent to the Congress legislation that would require mandatory prison sentences for persons convicted of high-level trafficking in heroin and similar narcotics. Sentences would not be less than three years for such traffickers and would range up to a total of 30 years.

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Unfortunately this legislation has been caught up in the great debate over Senate Bill 1, which is a very controversial piece of legislation and, unfortunately, unless we break it out, unless we separate it from other very controversial reorganization and rewriting of our Federal Criminal Code, I am afraid we can't get affirmative action.

But because we cannot afford delay, I am recommending the separation of these recommended provisions to handle these problems from S. 1 which is a comprehensive rewrite of our Federal Criminal Code.

I will recommend in a special drug message that will soon be sent to the Congress, the separation and to urge the Congress to act as quickly as possible in order to join with us in the Executive Branch with the local and State people who are trying to do something very affirmatively in this one-year period.

Now, beyond halting the illegal flow of drugs from abroad and stiffening our domestic law enforcement, still another prong of attack on drug abuse must lie in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

In recent years we have made very significant progress in the United States creating a very large and successful treatment network. Today some \$460 million in Federal funds is spent annually on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, ten times more than we spent just seven years ago.

We can now treat more than a quarter of a million drug addicts at one time in the United States. In addition, recent studies show that the number of addicts who go back to drugs after they have been treated has dramatically declined, which indicates that the treatment is better and certainly, if we can get them early enough, it's infinitely better.

Encouraging progress has also been made in working with local leaders on programs of drug education, particularly counseling. I know that the people of Dallas must take a very special pride in the highly innovative program that has been set up with Federal seed money, and is to run by the Dallas Independent School District under Dr. Nolan Estes. This program, as I understand it, built on the philosophy that the drug problem is actually a human problem, has turned countless numbers of individuals away from drug abuse and has helped to rehabilitate many, many others.

And what impresses me most about this effort is that it's leaders are not only concerned adults, but young people themselves, young people who have a real mission in life to save their classmates, their families from a very horrible fate.

Now, looking over the wide range of drug efforts, it can be seen that the Federal Government must play a very essential role in dealing with law enforcement problems that are national in scope and mobilizing the enormous potential resources of State and local localities.

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We are pursuing an active program now and building upon a white paper which was issued just a few months ago. We plan to accelerate that program in the future. We will step up our interdiction efforts. We shall step up our law enforcement efforts. We shall step up our efforts at prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and we shall stick with it as long as we must to get the results that are essential and vital to the history and the health of this country.

Now, let me add this final note -- before getting into the final note that it was going to be the final note (Laughter) -- I couldn't help but gather from the conversation at the dinner table tonight that some in this audience were very pleased with the firm actions under the leadership of John Tower and several others in the Senate in defeating, or in effect killing for this session of the Congress at least, the no-fault insurance legislation.

The Administration helped a little bit. We didn't like it either, so congratulations, John.

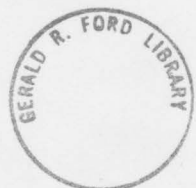
The final note, if I might. Everything we do, whether in combatting drugs, in solving the problems of our economy or in regaining energy independence for America, you know as well as I that we cannot rely solely upon Washington, D.C. This country is great, not because of what Government has done for people, but what people have done for themselves.

There is one very fundamental truth that I would like to repeat because it means a great deal to all of you as citizens, but it means something to you particularly as lawyers. We should never forget this fundamental truth, that a Government big enough to give us everything we want is a Government big enough to take from us everything we have.

Now, as we take a final look at the total effort, cooperation with the Mexican Government and the prevention of the growing or planting of the poppies, to the interdiction at the border, to more law enforcement, tougher action in the courts, prevention, rehabilitation, when we mobilize all of those resources -- Federal, State and local -- we in Government have made the most massive effort that we possibly can.

But, all of that effort will be of little use unless the American people themselves rally and fight this scourge of drug abuse within their own communities and within their own family. The mysteries of growing up, of finding meaning in life, are perhaps more baffling today than they were in much simpler times.

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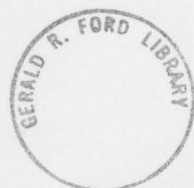
As adults, we cannot provide all of the answers, but we can provide a loving and a caring home. We can provide good counsel, we can provide good communities in which we can live and the children we bear can also live. We can show, through our own example, that life in the United States is still very meaningful and very satisfying and very worthwhile.

Americans have always stood tall and strong against all enemies. Drug abuse is an enemy we can, we must and we will overcome, but it has to be a personal and a national dedication.

If we do, we can be successful. I am convinced we want to, and we will and we must.

Thank you very, very much.

END (AT 10:00 P.M. CST)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 9, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Dallas, Texas)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

LOVE FIELD

4:30 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. It is nice to see all you good people from Dallas and the surrounding area. Why don't you ask me some questions?

QUESTION: Mr. President, don't you think Dr. Kissinger is becoming somewhat of a problem, if not a liability, by the mere fact that Governor Reagan has made him such an issue in the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we have to look above the politics of the situation. We have to look to see whether our foreign policy has been successful or not. When you look at the United States around the world, you see that we have been successful, that we have been the calming and successful influence in the Middle East. We have strengthened our alliance in Western Europe. We have strengthened our position in the Pacific.

Dr. Kissinger has been an excellent Secretary of State. He has implemented the policies which I have directed, and when you look at success, I think you understand why there are, you know, politics a bit.

QUESTION: How are you going to do in Texas, at the primaries?

THE PRESIDENT: We are very encouraged. We recognize that we started from behind, but I was tremendously impressed with the people in the organization in San Antonio, and I am told the same is true in many other areas. Under the leadership of Senator John Tower we have a great person to give us the inspiration and to get the workers pulling together and doing a good job, so we might surprise somebody.

QUESTION: Can you win this primary without Governor Connally's support?

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THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't have any idea. That is up to the voters of the State of Texas.

It is really nice to see you all. I will be glad to answer any other questions.

It is nice to be here. We are looking forward to the rest of the day here. We are going to have a busy day tomorrow, but Texas is a great State and this is a crucial primary, and we are going to work very hard. We have good leadership with John Tower. We have wonderful workers. We are delighted to be here, and compete very strongly.

QUESTION: Mr. President, who is ahead right now?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we are probably a little behind, but you know underdogs often win, and we are going to do our best to prove that here.

QUESTION: Will John Connally come around?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't have any idea. You will have to talk to John.

Yes.

QUESTION: Do you consider Texas do or die for Ronald Reagan? Do you think he will win here?

THE PRESIDENT: We really don't know what they are going to do. Our plans are to go right to Kansas City full steam ahead. After we win in Kansas City, we expect to go full steam ahead between then and November 2, so we really have no way of knowing what their plans might be. We can only count on ours.

Thank you all very, very much. It is nice to see you all.

END

(AT 4:35 P.M. CST)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 9, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Dallas, Texas)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
AT THE
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT BRIEFING
OF THE
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

FAIRMONT HOTEL

5:07 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Jim, Senator Tower, Mayor Harrison, Dean Coleman, Mr. Cox, Mr. Tatum, Dr. Grayson, Mr. Crow, fellow Mustangs and guests: (Laughter)

Thank you very much. That concludes my speech. (Laughter)

Obviously I am delighted to have an opportunity to address this forum of the SMU School of Business Management and distinguished members of the business community in Dallas.

I do have a wonderful recollection of the opportunity to be at Moody Coliseum last September to recognize SMU's Sixtieth anniversary. I was highly honored to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Law Degree, so I do feel a special affinity for and deep belief concerning SMU.

As you know, Jim Sundberg is an old and very dear friend of mine. He used to be a constituent of mine in a more limited sense. He was the original President and founder, really, of Grand Valley College, which is now a school of some 8,000.

But he took it from scratch and made it into an outstanding educational institution, and I know he will continue in that same leadership capacity here in your community.

Jim, it's great to see you again.

At this time a year ago, as many of you will remember, America was at the bottom of its worst recession in 40 years. But what you may not recall is some of the most gloomy predictions that some of our very distinguished Americans were making about our economy at that time.

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George Meany, for example, said we were sure to reach a 10 percent unemployment by summer. My good friend, Hubert Humphrey, said unless we took some drastic actions within 60 to 90 days we would be approaching the dimensions of a depression. We heard some of America's most respected economists calling for extensive wage and price controls. We heard some of America's most prominent politicians calling for massive new Federal spending programs and for the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs, Federal payroll jobs.

The Administration, I am glad to say in retrospect, and I thought I was right then, rejected all of these suggestions and all the other suggestions that were the wrong medicine for the American economy.

Common sense told me that the right course to pursue during economic recovery was to stimulate growth, growth in the private sector in order to restore our strength.

So we proposed, and the Congress accepted, a major tax cut for individuals to increase their purchasing power. We proposed tax incentives for business expansion and job production in the private sector where five out of every six jobs are found in America.

And we proposed extended unemployment insurance to those Americans who had unfortunately lost their jobs to the recession, to help cushion the hardship until our national economy was revived and our strength recovered.

There were very practical, common sense policies, and they have worked. Last week, for example, it was announced that we gained 375,000 more jobs in the month of March alone, bringing the total American work force to 86 million, 700 thousand.

More Americans are gainfully employed today than ever before in the history of the United States. And I would say that is a pretty good comeback.

In fact, everything that is supposed to be going up -- the number of jobs, real earnings for the American worker, sales investment, industrial production -- all of these are on the increase, and the Department of Commerce reported today retail sales for the month of March were up a strong 2.8 percent from February.

Furthermore, everything that is supposed to be going down -- the rate of unemployment, the rate of inflation, the rate of growth in Federal spending, even some prices are going down. The rate of inflation has been cut almost in half from 12.2 percent to 6.3 percent. The rate of growth in Federal spending has been cut from 11 percent, which was the rate of growth for a period of about ten years, to 5.5 percent, which was what I recommended in the budget that was submitted in January.

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This is progress in trying to get the Federal budget under control. And let me illustrate, for example, quite specifically.

When we were putting the budget together in November for submission to the Congress in January, I spent roughly 100 hours with the top people from every department, the Office of Management and Budget, and we found if there wasn't a single new program added by Congress or anybody else, just because more people would be qualifying and because of escalation clauses, there would be greater expenditure. There would be a growth in Federal spending from June 30 of this year to June 30 of next year of \$35 billion without a change in the law. That is about 11 percent growth in Federal spending and that was the case in every fiscal year or the average for a period of ten years.

What we did was to say we can't afford that growth, and we cut it in half from 11 percent to 5.5 percent. And believe me, it wasn't easy. A lot of things that had been going along and along and along got cut, and a few got eliminated. But I think we are on the right track, and I might add parenthetically, since taking office in August of 1974, I have had the privilege of vetoing 47 bills. In fact, number four bit the dust yesterday.

But the net result of 46 of those vetoes is that where 39 have been sustained by the Congress, we have saved the taxpayers \$13 billion.

Now, if we can keep that kind of pressure on and hold Federal spending down, we can balance the Federal budget in Fiscal Year 1979, we can have another major tax cut the same year, in addition to the one I recommended, take effect July 1st of this year. And we can get the Government out of the private money market, further easing pressure on interest rates in getting the Federal Treasury out of competition with the private sector.

We can help the private sector expand. We can pull in the reins of the Federal Government for a long overdue change.

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These are some of our economic plans for the future. For the present, I can say to you with confidence, without any hesitation or qualification, we are on the road to a new and lasting prosperity in the United States, and we are not about to be sidetracked now by any quick fixes or gimmicks sent down to the Oval Office from the Congress in 1976.

The success of our economic policy proves once again that it doesn't take a huge Government bureaucracy to solve every problem in America. We must never forget one very fundamental truth that a Government big enough to give us everything we want is a Government big enough to take from us everything we have.

To guard against that danger of ever-increasing control by the Federal Government, I proposed a five-year nine-month extension of what we call general revenue sharing, a program that has worked very well for the last four years, and your good mayor can give you the specifics as to the impact here in Dallas and your county officials can do the same, and so can your State officials.

If there is one thing the Federal Government is good at, it is collecting taxes (Laughter) as we will all learn once again in about six days.

If there is one thing the Federal Government is not good at, it is trying to decide the best local solution to a local problem. So, the general revenue sharing program lets the Federal Government collect the money and then give it back to local and State units of Government to spend as they see fit under the watchful eye of local voters, and I think they keep a pretty good eye on you, don't they, Mayor Harrison? (Laughter)

But anyhow, by the end of this year the City of Dallas will have received more than \$56 million under the revenue sharing program which began in 1972. Dallas County will have received more than \$20 million and all of Texas will have received \$1.5 billion.

Under the extension of the revenue sharing program that I proposed last summer to the Congress, Dallas would receive more than \$85 million; in the next five and three-quarter years, Dallas County almost \$35 million, and all of Texas would receive approximately \$2 billion.

You will be interested to note this, that the total cost of the Federal Government's administration of the revenue sharing program is only one-eighth of one penny of every dollar distributed to State and local units of Government.

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That is what I would call holding bureaucratic overhead to a bare minimum, and I intend to see that that trend is encouraged in other Federal programs in the next four years.

Now, we all know that it wasn't an all-powerful Government that made America the great nation that it is today. It was people, people. I want to insure that the Government is always the capable servant, but never the master, of the American people.

As we look to the future in this age of giant institutions, it is our common responsibility to see that the individual freedom is strengthened in America. In this climate the America grew to greatness. This is the climate we must preserve, restore in America as we enter our third century of independence.

If we take this as our common task and our common goal, we cannot and we will not fail.

I thank you, and I will now be glad to answer questions.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you believe that the Government should stop supporting farm subsidies in order to let the market become, or get more back to a state of equilibrium?

THE PRESIDENT: When I was in the House of Representatives, I consistently opposed the kind of farm programs that we had where the farmer was producing for storage and the Government controlled the surplusses.

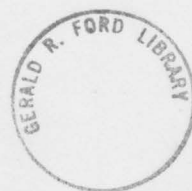
In 1972, as I recall, we got rid of that kind of control program and today the farmers in wheat and soybeans and corn produce for the marketplace, and there are no Federal subsidies in those programs.

The net result is our agriculture as a whole in these particular areas are doing far better than when they had surplusses with the overhang and the depressing effect on the American farmer.

The programs we have now are basically sound agricultural programs with one or two exceptions. I will be called upon next year, when the present law expires, to recommend an extension.

It is my intention to recommend the extension, that of the kind of agricultural legislation we have now for corn, for soybeans, for wheat and several other commodities and to try to get the Congress to do the same thing in the one or two exceptions where we are still struggling with the old program.

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QUESTION: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: You can remember, this is a figure we oftentimes forget. Ten years Uncle Sam was paying over \$365 million a year in storage costs for corn and wheat, which is \$1 million a day, and today we pay nothing in that regard.

The American farmer controls his product, sells it in the market and the Federal Government doesn't have the heavy bureaucratic control that he had for too long a time and the net result is American agriculture today is healthier than it has been in a long, long time.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I have to identify myself to tell you I am also a graduate of the University of Michigan. (Laughter) I would really like to know about the Big Ten next year, but I have another one.

THE PRESIDENT: We didn't do too badly in basketball. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Or football. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Except we didn't win. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Second is better than none.

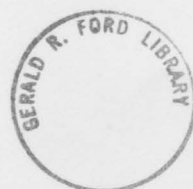
What I would like to know is, do you have any workable plan on the boards right now in order to make our welfare system and the food stamp system become more accountable?

THE PRESIDENT: I strongly believe we have one of two roads to follow in trying to get rid of the present welfare programs that just don't work. We can either come up with a comprehensive program that is really new, which would be much like the family assistance program that was submitted in 1969 and 1973. That is one alternative.

It would probably have to be modified, but it would consolidate all of the many, many welfare programs that have been piled one upon another over the years. That is one course. We have some rather specific recommendations that are being analyzed in that area right now.

Or, you can take the other course of action, which is to try and tighten up, to change the existing welfare programs, including food stamps on a piecemeal basis.

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Now, sometime between now and next January we will make a decision which is the better of the two courses. But, obviously, one or the other has to be undertaken.

Let me add in the interim, however, the food stamp program has gotten totally out of control. Six or eight years ago it was costing around \$400 million a year. This fiscal year the cost is going to be close to \$8 billion a year -- \$8 billion a year. It is a program in the Department of Agriculture's budget, and that is more of Agriculture's budget expenditures than what they give or do or help for farmers. It is unbelievable.

But, anyhow, what we have tried to do is we submitted last year modifications to the food stamp program which would save roughly \$1 billion 600 million a year. The Congress said, no, you can't put that into effect until after January of this year. So, we had to wait. That is what the law said.

So, they kept promising us that they were going to move, they were going to do something in correcting inequities and poor administration of the food stamp program.

Well, they haven't done it, so finally about a month or six weeks ago we submitted under the law this modification of the food stamp program to save \$1 billion 600 million. It goes into effect I think in about three weeks because after you publish it in the Federal Register, I think there is 60 days for people to object and so forth.

Unless we are sued and stopped from doing it, that program will go into effect in a relatively short period of time.

In the meantime -- where is John Tower? The Senate, did they conclude action, John, on food stamps yet or not?

Well, as I understand it, the Senate spent about a week in trying to do something in food stamps and John just told me it was a bad bill. (Laughter)

Believe me, I rely on his judgment on virtually everything that comes out of the Senate. So, if he says it is a bad bill, you can imagine what is going to happen to it. (Laughter)

To conclude, we are going to have one or the other in January because the present welfare situation can't be tolerated any longer.

MORE



QUESTION: Mr. President, I am grateful for the opportunity to raise this question with you.

Presently the Office of Minority Business Enterprise exists under Executive Order 11458 and 11625 as amended. I am wondering, sir, if you would address the question of your feeling of the permanency of this agency under the present bill, which is before the Senate. I think it is Senate Bill 2617 presented by Senator Bennett Johnson from Louisiana.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I always hesitate to comment on a bill that hasn't passed the Congress and has come down actually to the White House, because often times you start out with a bill with a number on it. By the time it gets to the Oval Office, it only has a number and the substance can be quite different.

But anyhow, I am a firm believer in the Office of Minority Business. I think they have done a good job.

If they come down with a bill that is sound as far as structure and organization and so forth, yes, I would approve it because I believe the concept is good and, as far as I am concerned, recognizing that it is set up by Executive Order, there wouldn't be any need, as far as I am concerned, to pass the legislation because it will stay there.

I believe in it. I think it has worked well, and if they come down with a good bill, obviously I would not disagree with it.

QUESTION: Thank you, sir.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to ask you if you would consider Ronald Reagan as a running mate? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I responded to that before, and there is no change. We have a number of outstanding, I think, potential Republican candidates for Vice President, and they include governors, former governors, Members of the House and Senate, and certainly on the basis of his experience in public life, his interest in the future of this country, he ought to be considered, definitely. But I think it is premature so long as we are going at it the way we are. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to know your stand on the amendment to the Federal Election Act which, as it comes out of the House, would have corporate political action committees.

MORE



THE PRESIDENT: Well, when the Supreme Court -- let me go back one step further. When Congress passed the original law, I signed it, it became law, it was in late 1974. There were a number of people that challenged the constitutionality of the legislation and the Supreme Court about 60 or 90 days ago said that certain portions of that legislation were unconstitutional, including the one that provided for six members of the Federal Election Commission, four to be appointed by the House and Senate and two to be appointed by the President was unconstitutional.

When the court acted, I immediately got the Democratic and Republican leadership down to the Cabinet Room. We talked about how we could remedy the constitutional defects in the law.

It seemed to me that the easiest and best way to do it was to reconstitute the Commission as directed by the Supreme Court. And that ought to be done and nothing else.

I recommended that to the Congress. Unfortunately the Senate and House now have both passed bills that, yes, remedied the one problem, which is basic, but in each case they have added a number of, I think, very questionable provisions.

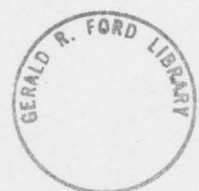
So it appears that in conference between the House and the Senate, they will have to come out with a lot of non-essential controversial, complex amendments to the basic law, which I think was a bad mistake, and it would have been so much better, so much more constructive if they had just reconstituted the committee or commission and let it go at that.

If they send a lot of complicated controversial, I think, non-essential amendments down to it, it's a good candidate for a veto.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to ask you a question about inflation. You stated that inflation last year was 12.5 percent and at present it's about 6 percent. Could you tell me if you expect the inflation to go lower this year and next year.

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly the trend is in the right direction. Let's take the Wholesale Price Index, for the last five months, if you average them, we had two months that were below -- in other words, they had a decline -- and they had three months where the increase was minimal. And if you take the five months, actually the Wholesale Price Index is flat. And, of course, that has an impact on our Consumer Price Index.

MORE



Now, the last Consumer Price Index figure that came out was .2 percent. It's my opinion that the trend is in the right direction. We estimated that for the calendar year 1976 that the rate of inflation would be between 6.5 percent and 7 percent. We are optimistic it is going to be less than that because the trend is better already.

So my judgment is that by the end of this calendar year, the Consumer Price Index, the rate of increase will be under 6 percent. And that will be a lot of progress from what it was in 1974. It was over 12 percent.

QUESTION: Mr. President, if you will allow me a presumptuous question?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

QUESTION: The population of the world is said to have doubled in the last 50 years, and there are widespread rumors of widespread shortage. As the President of the United States, what kind of lifestyle or standard of living do you anticipate for our grandchildren?

THE PRESIDENT: It was announced just a week or two ago that we had passed the four billion mark in the world population, and the rate of growth in population in many of the underdeveloped countries is far higher than our own.

It's my feeling that if we follow the right policies domestically, and we coordinate our effort with our allies, and we at the same time are able to deal at arms length with adversaries. I am talking about economic policy. It's my judgment that our grandchildren will have a better life than most of us in this room have had.

I am an optimist. I believe between science and all of the other skills that have been developed in recent years as to productivity in agriculture, increased industrial capacity and productivity, plus the educational opportunities, communication benefits, there is no reason in the world why the United States and the world as a whole shouldn't be infinitely better off.

And I start from that assumption. If you start from the assumption it's going to be worse, I think you have the wrong perspective. I think when you look at all the things that can and ought to happen, if you have the right leadership, I know it's going to happen and our grandchildren will be better off than we.

MORE



QUESTION: Mr. President, I am a producer of natural gas from the Forth Worth Basin West of here.

My question would be, how would you, from your view, perceive the future of the controls the Government has over the natural gas industry?

THE PRESIDENT: In January of 1975, among other things I recommended to the Congress that they deregulate natural gas across the board. We worked very hard, and finally the Senate passed the Bentsen-Pearson Act, which was not total deregulation, but it was a big step forward, and we went along with it and worked with the two sponsors of that legislation.

We anticipated that the House of Representatives, after a hard night, would likewise go along with it. We lost in the subcommittee and the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. We lost in the full committee, but when it got to the floor, we had one of the Members of the House offer a substitute which, in effect, was the Pearson-Bentsen bill, and we lost by three votes.

It was a tragedy, absolute tragedy -- three votes, 205 to 202, something like that. Then the House of Representatives passed a far worse bill called the Smith bill which, among other things, would put Federal control on intrastate gas, not just on interstate gas.

Well, the net result is the two bills are incompatible. Bentsen-Pearson is a step forward and the Smith bill is a step backwards.

Now, I don't know whether we can somehow work something out or not, but as far as I am concerned, I stand by what I recommended in January of 1975, that the Congress deregulate natural gas, period.

If I might interject maybe one partisan fact, not a philosophical argument, but on the votes for deregulation of natural gas, 90 percent of the Republicans voted for deregulation and only 22 percent of the Democrats. That shows there is a difference. (Laughter)

QUESTION: I would like to ask you why the senior citizens seem to be penalized when they remarry and lose their Social Security or part of their Social Security?

MORE



THE PRESIDENT: I think the assumption is that when a widow marries a second time that her husband is in a position to either support her with his Social Security or other resources and on that basis the law from the very beginning has precluded a widow from getting what she got from her first husband.

That is the way the law is, and I can see where you are suggesting it is inequitable. We have got a lot of things of that kind. One of the grossest examples, which is in the same area, a woman who works for five years and then marries and actually if she continues to work, when they retire she can't draw her Social Security.

Now, that certainly is an inequity in my judgment, but that is unfortunately the way the law is. We have a commission or a committee that is studying the whole thing, including the financing of Social Security, and things of this sort undoubtedly will come before me and before the Congress in 1977.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my question has to do with women, perhaps before they are widowed. In spite of the fact that women are more prepared and educated now to enter and compete in the business world, the high salaried positions are still going even to a higher percentage to men than to women.

Women are still being kept out of the boardrooms. There are several hundred business people in this room, and I wonder what you could say to them about the hiring, the promoting and the respecting of women, capable women in the business world today?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no authority to say anything. (Laughter) I would rather indicate to you and to them that this Administration has made great steps forward in recognizing women for high positions of responsibility and Texas has done pretty well.

Let me say Anne Armstrong is doing a super job as our Ambassador to the Court of St. James, and you should be proud of her, as we are.

But, we have a number of other women in positions of great responsibility in the Federal Government. The head or the chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, Betty Murphy, is a woman. (Laughter) We have the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Carla Hills. So, throughout the Administration we have a very substantial number of women being recognized in positions of importance and responsibility.

MORE



But, I don't think I ought to tell this distinguished group, when I am trying to, you know, get friendly -- (Laughter) -- I think you made the best speech on that. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, a lot of people we talked to today are concerned about the relative stance of the United States as one of the major world powers and the diminishing portion of the Federal pie spent on defense. What is your position, and what will be your position when you begin your new term in 1977?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me answer the last part first. Seven years ago, out of the total Federal expenditures, the Defense Department was getting roughly 42 percent of all Federal expenditures and so-called domestic programs were getting roughly 31 or 32 percent.

In the seven-year span, the rate of growth of domestic programs has gone up better than 11 percent and the Defense Department has, in real dollars, or in current dollars has gone along at about the same level and in real dollars has actually had a decrease.

So, a year ago, when I submitted in January the biggest military budget in the history of the United States, we would have reversed that trend.

In that seven-year span, defense has gone from 42 percent to 24 percent, and domestic programs went from 31 and 32 percent up to 50 percent or better. Now, that trend in both cases had to stop. When I submitted the budget a year ago, it would have turned up the percentage for defense.

Unfortunately, the Congress cut \$7.5 billion out of it. So, it nullified what I tried to do to get defense having a larger share.

Now, in January of this year I submitted the biggest peacetime -- the biggest budget for the Defense Department in the history of the United States -- \$114.4 billion with increases for strategic arms, conventional arms, research and development, et cetera, which again is an attempt to get the share of the Federal dollars in a greater degree for the Defense Department.

It would take it up to almost 26 percent. Fortunately, so far it looks like the pressure we put on the Congress is bringing some results because I don't think Congress this year is going to slash away at it, as they did last year.

MORE



So, if they don't, we will have the kind of a Defense Department program that will keep us unsurpassed now and will keep us unsurpassed in the future.

What we are trying to do is to upgrade all of our hardware -- and it is a regular process -- it calls for the B-1 being substituted for the B-52. It includes the Trident submarine being substituted for the Polaris and the Poseidon, it provides the M-60 tank to replace the M-48.

It is a constant process of upgrading our military equipment. With the budget we submitted for the next fiscal year, we will be unsurpassed at the present and will continue to be unsurpassed.

Now, I know some questions have been raised about whether we are as strong as the Russians. The allegation is made that they have four million people in the Army, in their military forces, and we have two million one.

The problems are a little different. The Soviet Union has a 1,000 mile or more border with the People's Republic of China and they have at least half of their forces on that border. We, the United States, have friendly relations with the Canadians on the one hand and the Mexicans on the other, so we don't have to have half of our military forces on either the northern or the southern border.

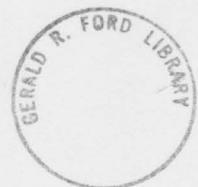
In addition, the Soviet Union has to face the NATO forces to the west, so they have two borders that they have to man fully, completely, totally. So, just taking numbers without understanding the problem doesn't explain the facts of life.

Now, let's take another question that has been raised. The allegation is made that the Soviet Union has more missiles than we. That is true, but what do we have? We have more warheads than they by about four to one, and it is warheads, not missiles, that destroy the target.

Our missiles and warheads are more accurate and our launching pads are more survivable, so we are in a better position to survive and we are in a better position because our warheads, what we want, are in greater number. So, I just caution people that before you take a chart that compares numbers, that you understand something broader than just the numbers.

You have to compare apples and apples, not apples and oranges, as some people try to do. I will tell you the best military expert in this audience is our own Senator, John Tower. He is the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee in armed services, and I can tell you from my experience with him, when I was in the Congress and he was on several conferences with the House and Senate with me, there wasn't a better or more knowledgeable person, a harder fighter for what he and I stand for than John Tower. You are darned lucky, and so tis the country, to have him.

MORE



QUESTION: Mr. President, the subject that I am going to touch on in this question is rather delicate and possibly controversial in an election year, so please do not answer it if you feel the answer might hurt your chances of being re-elected. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: If I won't answer it, I will get Betty down here to answer it. You can count on her to announce it. (Laughter)

QUESTION: It probably is going to destroy any chance of my ever holding a public office. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, go ahead.

QUESTION: The question is, in view of what is happening in Great Britain and in several of the other nations, could you please consider the inequities that might be involved in the monopolistic trends that we see in collective bargaining?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean between labor and management?

QUESTION: In terms of collective bargaining on the labor side. We have monopolistic controls on the management side, but I was wondering if there were any inequities involved in giving them laissez-faire in their group going together?

THE PRESIDENT: If I understand the question, I strongly believe in the Taft-Hartley Act. And I would vigorously oppose and not approve the deletion of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

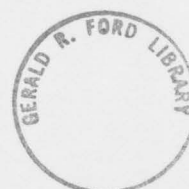
I voted for, and strongly support, what we call the Landrum-Griffin Act which tried to put more responsibility and control over certain practices in labor organizations.

It seems to me that with the current court decisions and the existing law, we are getting away from monopolistic practices and undesirable practices in many of the areas where they were bad in the '30s and the '40s and the '50s.

Now, it's not Utopia, don't get me wrong, but I honestly think we are making some headway.

QUESTION: The issue that I was really concerned about, we are far from it here in our country, but looking at Great Britain, it could conceivably get to a point where the unions could paralyze the nations operation.

MORE



THE PRESIDENT: I don't think our situation is comparable to that of Great Britain, and I have been impressed with the restraint under the kind of facts of life that they were faced with, with the attitude in the last few months of the major labor organizations in Great Britain.

Of course, it was obvious if they didn't do it, the country itself would have had serious economic repercussions. But in this country, certainly we are not in that situation. I don't think we will ever get there.

QUESTION: Mr. President, first of all, I wanted to thank you for coming to Dallas and spending some time here with each of us. And as a final question, I would like to ask, what specific steps has your Administration taken to reduce Federal intervention or whatever have you in the life of the average American businessman? What steps have you taken or will you take?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me give you one or more specifics. Number one, about a year ago, a little less than that, I asked the Office of Management and Budget how many forms go to American businessmen in every department of the Federal Government. They totaled them up and they were roughly 5,200.

Now, all of them don't go to all of you, although you may think so. (Laughter) But that is the total that go to American business from all departments.

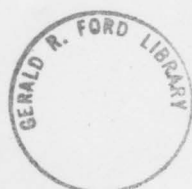
We had a conference, and after that conference I said, by July 1 of this year, you have got to cut 10 percent off, and we have now reduced that by about 5 percent, and by July 1, orders are to achieve a total of a 10 percent reduction, which is 520 of them. They are making some headway

Now, we are trying under the law -- and I know that this may be a sensitive subject -- we have already started the process under Frank Zarb to get rid of the various price controls under the energy legislation that was passed last December.

Mr. Zarb has filed the necessary documents in the Federal Register to get rid of residual oil controls. He is next going to do it for distillates and for gasoline and shortly we will start under the law as quickly as possible to undertake a 40-month period of decontrol with 10 percent as the first step. That is something that is on the way.

And if I can say parenthetically, I know that my signing that bill was somewhat controversial last December, but I want you to remember this, in January of last year, a year ago, I proposed the total deregulation of oil as well as natural gas.

MORE



In fact, my recommendation to the Congress was that we should decontrol oil by April 1, period, across the board. Unfortunately, the Congress rejected that and extended it until December 22nd when the other law became effective.

And if we hadn't signed that bill, the distinct possibility, the overwhelming odds were that you would have had a continuation of the existing law which was much more rigid, much more inflexible, and what we finally got is not what I wanted, believe me, because I recommended total decontrol of both natural gas and oil.

But with the opposition controlling the Congress two to one, you just don't turn a spigot and get what you are after.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President, speaking on behalf of some of those of us who received those 5,200 forms, we are pleased and proud to have you here in Dallas and hope you will be back some time later this year and perhaps more importantly, sir, we hope you will be back next year.

END

(AT 6:01 P.M. CST)



APRIL 9, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Pursuant to Public Law 94-104, I am submitting a further report on the progress of Cyprus negotiations and the efforts this Administration is making to help find a lasting solution to the problems of the island. In two previous reports, I detailed the Administration's major effort to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. My most recent report, submitted in February, indicated that the two sides had agreed to resume the intercommunal negotiating process later that month. That round of talks did, in fact, take place.

The Greek Cypriot negotiator and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart met in Vienna February 17-21, 1976, under the aegis of UN Secretary General Waldheim. The meetings concluded with agreement by the two sides to exchange proposals on the key substantive Cyprus issues -- including control of territory -- within six weeks. Moreover, the parties agreed to meet again in Vienna following the exchange of written proposals for the purpose, according to a joint announcement made on February 21, of establishing a common basis before the proposals are submitted to mixed committees which will function in Cyprus during recesses in the Vienna-level talks.

The commitment of both sides to introduce negotiating proposals on the key territorial and constitutional issues must be viewed as a significant advance. Until the recent Vienna meeting, the two sides had never been able to agree on a procedural formula which would allow the exchange of their respective positions on these key issues of the Cyprus problem. That obstacle has now been overcome.

At the recent Vienna talks, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot negotiators also agreed to resume talks in Nicosia on humanitarian considerations. To date, six meetings have been held which have dealt with the problem of missing persons, among other issues, and the situation of the Greek Cypriots living in the Turkish sector. There is evidence that these talks are producing concrete results. For example, according to a United Nations communique issued at the conclusion of the March 27 Nicosia meeting, nine schools will be reopened in the Turkish sector on the island to provide for the educational needs of the Greek Cypriot population that has chosen to remain in that area.

The United States continues to remain alert to any opportunity to assist the negotiating process more directly. During the recent visit to Washington of Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil, I emphasized the need for both sides to negotiate in good faith so that progress on the Cyprus problem can be realized as expeditiously as possible. Secretary of State Kissinger also addressed the Cyprus question in his discussions with the Foreign Minister. It was clear from our conversations that Foreign Minister Caglayangil believes these negotiations should be sustained so that the entire spectrum of issues can be considered.

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In sum, we are encouraged that the negotiating process has been resumed and that a procedure has been developed whereby the critical issues can finally be subjected to serious negotiations. An important threshold has been crossed. Equally encouraging is the impetus that has been created to work out the humanitarian problems. Now we must all work to maintain and increase momentum. We are ourselves again reviewing the situation to see what more can be done to complement the efforts of UN Secretary General Waldheim and the parties, now that the stage has been reached where proposals are being exchanged. We will give serious consideration to any initiative or action -- consonant with the wishes of those involved -- which would provide greater impetus to the process that is now underway. In the weeks ahead, we will be in touch with the parties to explore such possibilities.

For the moment, we urge that the two sides engage in realistic and statesmanlike discussions on the major issues such as territory. For our part, we shall continue to devote our energies and resources to finding a just solution to the problems of Cyprus.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
APRIL 9, 1976

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

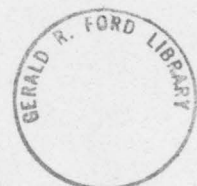
WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM:

MARGITA E. WHITE

The Sunday shows, April 11, 1976:

<u>Face the Nation</u>	Former Secretary of Defense, James Schlesinger (Live)	(9)	11:30 a.m.
<u>Issues and Answers</u>	Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wash) (Live)	(7)	12:00 p.m.
<u>Meet the Press</u>	Rep. Brock Adams (D-Wash), Chairman of the House Budget Committee (Live)	(4)	12:30 p.m.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

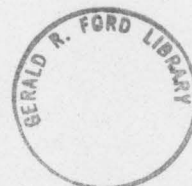
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1976

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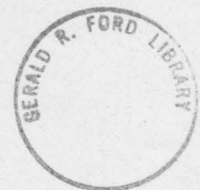
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April 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND: In his fiscal year 1977 budget, the President indicated his intention to request a supplemental for summer youth jobs for 1976 as soon as the projections of summer youth job needs were available. In March, the Secretary of Labor made his analysis of the situation, and as a result, the President is requesting \$528,420,000 to finance 888,100 jobs under the authority of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), Section 304(a)(3). The action the President is taking today, combined with other related summer youth employment programs, means Federal efforts will produce summer jobs for 1.5 million young people.

DELIVERY SYSTEM: Funds are allocated among existing CETA sponsors who are generally States, cities and counties with populations of 100,000 or more, consortia of jurisdictions, and Indian Tribes and organizations.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS: Funds are allocated by formula among the sponsors, taking into account last year's allocation, relative distribution of low income families, and relative levels of unemployment (data to be used in the formula will be available early in May). No sponsor will receive fewer slots than were allocated last year.

ELIGIBLE YOUTH: Youth are eligible if they are age 14 - 21 and qualify under the Department of Labor's definition of disadvantaged. Generally this includes those on public assistance and those whose family income levels are below the poverty guidelines established under criteria issued by the Office of Management and Budget. For a family of four, the income level for the coming summer is \$5,500.

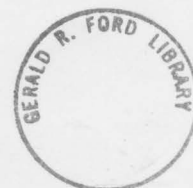
TYPE OF JOBS: Jobs are generally 20 hours per week for nine weeks. They pay at least the minimum wage and are in a wide range of community public or nonprofit worksites, e.g.: hospitals, libraries, day care and health services. At local option there are varying degrees of training and supportive services provided.

RELATED SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS: In addition to the jobs funded by the supplemental there will be additional Federally generated youth employment programs as follows:

Federal Summer Employment Program: Under Civil Service Commission guidance, Federal agencies will hire about 54,000 disadvantaged youth. (An additional 30,000 young people are expected to be hired for the summer under merit staffing procedures.)

Youth Conservation Corps: About 26,000 youth (not restricted to disadvantaged) will do conservation work in Federal and State parks and forests under Department of Agriculture and Interior direction.

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National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB): NAB has pledged 200,000 jobs for disadvantaged youth.

Employment Service: The State Employment Services have set a goal of placing an estimated 335,000 disadvantaged youths in summer jobs.

CETA Title I: Many sponsors will provide additional summer jobs from funds already available under Title I of CETA. Last year 143,000 jobs were funded this way. There is no estimate yet of how much will be provided this year.

SUMMARY: The attached table gives the 1976 summer job effort compared to 1975. A report on the overall effort is being sent to Congress by the Secretary of Labor.

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Summer Jobs Programs for Youths
Estimated Number of Jobs and Federal Funding 1976 and 1975

Program	1976 (Planned)		1975 (Actual)	
	Summer Jobs	New Obligational Authority	Summer Jobs	Expenditures
CETA Title III (Summer Program for Economically Disadvantaged Youth)	888,100	\$528,420,000	888,100	\$433,056,000
Federal Summer Employment Program for Youth	54,000	51,500,000	53,900	40,484,000
Youth Conservation Corps	26,000	32,000,000	12,000	13,000,000
Employment Service (ES) Youth Placements	335,000	<u>1/</u>	323,000	<u>1/</u>
National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB)	200,000	<u>1/</u>	221,900	<u>1/</u>
Total Estimated Summer Hires	1,503,100 ^{2/}	\$611,920,000	1,498,900 ^{2/}	\$486,540,000
CETA Title I	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	143,400	\$ 60,020,000

1/ Costs of wages borne by employing establishments; promotion and placement costs are not available.

2/ Total may include a small number of ES placements in jobs pledged through the NAB program.

3/ An undetermined number of jobs will be provided by prime sponsors under Title I allocations.

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 3:30 p.m.

APRIL 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Today I am formally transmitting to the Congress a request for a supplemental appropriation of \$528 million which will support 888,100 jobs for disadvantaged youth this summer.

The Secretary of Labor has advised me that the unemployment picture for youth is expected to improve this year over last year. However, the problem of youth unemployment continues to be a difficult one, especially in the summer months when students are out of school and seeking work. The action I am proposing today, combined with other related summer youth programs, will mean Federal efforts will produce a summer job for 1.5 million young people.

If Congress acts in a timely fashion on this request for a supplemental appropriation, the Summer Youth Employment Program will get funds where they are needed while they can be most useful. The appropriation I am requesting will create the same number of jobs at the local level as we achieved last summer.

I have made my request to the Congress in the form of an urgent supplemental. Many areas begin their programs in May, and sufficient lead time is required to ensure proper planning for so large a program. It is important that the employment provided to these young people be meaningful, and that the program operate with maximum efficiency.

I also want to call attention again to the importance of prompt Congressional action on a related matter -- my request for \$1.7 billion in supplemental funding for public service jobs under the CETA program. This request, contained in my 1977 Budget, would provide funds needed to prevent layoffs from Federally supported public service jobs programs. A number of local sponsors are already facing the prospect of terminating their programs because their funds are running out.

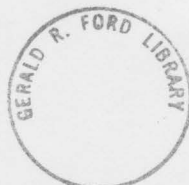
This public service employment program is already employing people. Whatever differences I may have with the Congress over other aspects of the job creation issue, there is no reason why local officials and individual job holders should be held in suspense or in fear of being laid off.

Action is essential on both the summer youth and the temporary employment assistance supplemental requests. I hope the Congress will act quickly to pass both measures.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
APRIL 8, 1976

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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 3:30 P.M. (EST)

April 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

When schools close for the summer months, many young Americans will be seeking temporary summer employment. This year, as in the past, Federal agencies can help these young men and women put their vacations to practical use.

I am once again requesting that Federal managers give their full support to the Federal Summer Employment Program for Youth. Past experience clearly indicates that young people are not only effective in the performance of duties as replacements for vacationing employees, but are also useful in a variety of other activities necessary in accomplishing the Government's missions. Also important is the fact that summer employment gives us a chance to expand relationships with educational institutions and, at the same time, assist students who need the income to help out with school expenses.

I urge all agencies to conduct balanced programs through the selection of young people who have successfully competed in the summer employment examination, those who have qualified under merit staffing and the Federal Summer Intern Program. In addition, to assure that needy young people have the opportunity to become involved, I am again setting a general goal of one needy youth for every 40 regular employees.

Chairman Hampton of the Civil Service Commission will continue to provide guidance on all aspects of the Government's summer programs and will report to me on accomplishments. In the past, the success of this program has been the result of support by Federal managers. I urge your continued personal involvement.

GERALD R. FORD

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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 3:30 P.M. (EST)

April 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 8, 1976

The President
of the Senate

Sir:

I ask the Congress to give immediate consideration to proposed supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 1976 in the amount of \$528,420,000 for the Department of Labor's summer youth employment program.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

I also remind the Congress that the \$1.7 billion I requested in 1976 supplemental appropriations for temporary employment assistance is urgently needed to prevent substantial layoffs from federally subsidized public service jobs by the end of this fiscal year.

Respectfully,

GERALD R. FORD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 8, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESS CONFERENCE
OF
PAUL W. MacAVOY
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
EDWARD C. SCHMULTS
DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT
AND
RICHARD E. WILEY
CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

THE BRIEFING ROOM

3:55 P.M. EST

MR. NESSEN: As we promised, we are now going to have a briefing on the meeting with the President and the heads of the 10 regulatory commissions. This is the latest in the President's campaign to reform legislation and increase competition in the regulated industries.

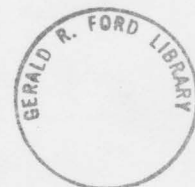
Before I introduce the briefers, there was some interest this morning in a transcript of the meeting, and the fact is that a transcript was made and it will be made public. It is quite lengthy, and it is going to take time to type it and proofread it, and so forth, but it should be available tomorrow morning here in the Press Office.

The briefers are going to be Ed Schmults, Deputy Counsel to the President and co-chairman of the committee overseeing the regulatory reform; Paul MacAvoy, of the Council of Economic Advisers, who is the other co-chairman; and, representing the regulatory agencies, Chairman Wiley, of the Federal Communications Commission.

I think Ed wants to give you, first of all, a summary of the meeting, and then they can take your questions.

MR. SCHMULTS: I would like to report on the meeting held today with the chairman and one other commissioner from each of the 10 independent regulatory commissions. The meeting was held in the Cabinet Room and lasted for an hour and a half. During the meeting, the President emphasized that reform of the Government regulatory system was a responsibility shared by the Executive Branch, the independent agencies and the Congress.

MORE



The meeting was called to discuss the progress that the agencies have made toward administrative reform of their policies and procedures. The President was encouraged by the steps that the agencies have taken, but he pointed out that many vital reforms were still needed.

During the meeting the President asked each of the chairmen to review the most significant reform evident underway in his agency and the most persistent reform problem faced by his agency.

After the discussion the chairmen were asked for a second progress report on their efforts by September 15. In these reports, the President has asked that each of the agencies take a hard look at how regulations are affecting the American public. Specifically, he wants the agencies to make their progress as well as their regulations more understandable. The President has asked each agency to include a statement on how the changes underway will affect the consumer, small businessmen and the taxpayers.

The President has asked each agency to include in the next report a priority list of concrete agency reforms. As one of those priorities, the President is seeking agency consideration of an increase in the reliance on competition rather than regulation.

In addition, the President has asked the independent commissions to join the Executive Branch agencies in achieving a reduction in the number of Federal forms. The paperwork burden must be reduced by all agencies.

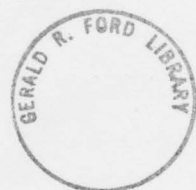
We will take questions now.

Q Can you give us an idea of some of the types of progress that were mentioned by the chairmen of the commissions?

MR. SCHMULTS: I will be glad to, and they all cited progress. For example, the Federal Power Commission -- Chairman Dunham -- mentioned that they had reduced the number of forms that were required to be filed by that commission from 50 to 15.

The SEC -- Chairman Hills -- indicated that they have reduced the delays which are a part of their opinion writing process from over a year, I believe the figure was, to close to 30 days now. His target, or the SEC's target, is 30 days and Chairman Hills reported they were 80 percent of the way there. That is a significant reform in a very important area.

MORE



The Federal Communications Commission -- we have Chairman Wiley here -- an important effort they have underway is reducing the renewal form. It is really just a front and back form, as I understand it now, Dick -- I am sorry, the radio renewal form, radio license form.

In some of my speeches on regulatory reform, I have cited the small radio station in New Hampshire that had to spend \$27 to send a renewal application to the FCC in Washington.

Q What do you mean? Reducing the size of it?

MR. SCHMULTS: Reducing the size of the form to just a front and back form, so essentially it is a single piece of paper to renew a radio station license. Now, that is a very significant reduction in the paperwork.

Q Has it been accomplished or is that a goal?

MR. WILEY: It has been accomplished.

Q How big was the form previously?

MR. WILEY: It is considerably larger in the number of pages, but the questions were reduced from 61 to 24 and the number of pages, I think, was 8 or 9, something like that.

Q What was the most significant reform that the FTC reported and what is its most persistent problem?

MR. SCHMULTS: Do you recall that, Paul?

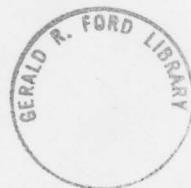
MR. MacAVOY: Commissioner Collier's remarks were centered on important procedural changes that have begun with the staff being reorganized to center attention and work on the use of benefit cost analysis in deciding which cases to emphasize, what the case load should be like, what are major versus minor activities. Rather than taking things sequentially, trying to organize their resources around the big cases. This was a task that is in the first stages.

As you know, the chairman is new and this is just beginning. But it will be a very substantial change in that agency when it is done.

Q What is its most persistent problem?

MR. MacAVOY: We didn't specifically discuss its most persistent problem in that case. We had prolonged discussion of these problems as they arose from agency to agency and those at the beginning of the hour and a half did a much better job of explaining their problems.

MORE



Q So the FTC was last?

MR. MacAVOY: Chairman Collier was the next to last, and he had a full minute. The President went out in the Garden with you and we lost him.

Q Did Chairman Wiley have any luck in answering that question?

MR. MacAVOY: He did very well. He was first.

Q Were any steps announced in the area of increasing competition in any agencies?

MR. SCHMULTS: Of course, the SEC reported on the steps they have taken to increase competition in the area of competitive rates in the securities industry and other agencies said that they were addressing those problems. I think you mentioned that, Dick, in FCC.

MR. WILEY: In the common carrier area, we have introduced competition into a number of areas previously marked by regulatory monopolies.

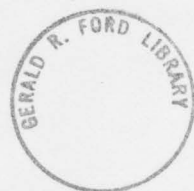
MR. MacAVOY: I think we should stop on that a minute, Rich, because Roderick Hills took us through the steps that preceded minimum commission rates and their investigations as to the results of making that change, a change that took from under controls the setting of that price, that set of commission charges for the first time in 185 years.

Before that occurred, it was widely predicted by experts that chaos would break loose and that the service for smaller consumers, individuals, households in buying stock would be eliminated and there would be severe disruption of the credit markets, capital markets. There would be no way of bringing forth new investment funds. That has not occurred. There has not been a reduction in service.

He described in detail the changes in service operation that followed from the companies realizing for the first time outside of regulation that a number of groups of consumers didn't want the package services they were getting as part of the normal course under the fixed rates. The service changes have not resulted in significant complaints to the commission of a reduction in essential services.

He stated flatly this has not occurred. As a matter of fact, there is some indication that retail services are picking up in the last few months rather than disappearing. So here is a case, like in a number of these instances, like in the airline regulation, that is now being discussed on the Hill where predictions of dire disaster were made before the regulatory change went into effect. Everything went very smoothly and we came out the other side without those catastrophic consequences predicted by the industry.

MORE



MR. SCHMULTS: George Stafford of the FCC stated there areas under the new Rail Act where the ICC would be exploring letting competition supplant ICC regulations.

Q Is it fair to say in this area of competition, particularly the SEC, if you apply it generally that those steps have to be legislatively mandated? Can any of these steps be taken by the agency without any laws?

MR. MacAVOY: It is much more difficult, other than the SEC, to make changes in the market structure within the commission. I think you are stating that correctly. The Administration's proposal for changing regulation in the case of the airline and the truck industries are designed to do that through the legislative process where the commissions themselves do not have quite those prerogatives.

In the case of the CAB, Commissioner Robson called Minetti for a legislative mandate for more emphasis on competition in the airline services. This was his bottom line. He had half a minute and used half of his half minute to make that statement, that he is looking for a legislative mandate to install more competition in airline services because the legislation, as it stands, does not give him that mandate.

Q Since Chairman Wiley is here, can he tell us what he told the President about deregulation at the FCC and what the President's reaction was?

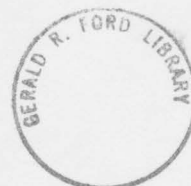
MR. WILEY: I can speak to what I told the President. I discussed our entire program, which has been going on for several years and has been intensified in the last year, to basically eliminate regulations which are unnecessary, which are technically outmoded and overly burdensome.

We pointed out that in the broadcast service we have eliminated or modified over 400 rules and we have made 25 major changes in our FCC cable policy, which was adopted in 1972. We then discussed our procedural reform.

As you know, within the last month we adopted a major overhaul and streamlining of our cumbersome and time-consuming hearing procedures. Those have been markedly changed, and I think they will bring about faster and more responsive hearings.

Finally, we talked about our consumer involvement with the formation of our new Consumer Assistance Office to help the average citizen find his way through the bureaucratic maze and we talked about our new weekly publication which summarizes all of the FCC activities and writes consumer and public interest comment on our rule-making.

MORE



We talked about our regional meeting program in which the FCC chairman and various commissioners and key staff members have met with the public in face-to-face meetings in major urban areas throughout the country, a program which will continue.

Finally, we discussed the fourth point the President asked us to comment on, which was the introduction of economic analysis into our procedures, and we are undertaking a new program review analysis of the FCC which will measure the resource impact of all of our regulations and all of our actions.

Q Mr. Chairman, I was wondering, has there been any reform of the procedure whereby, as I understand it, your ordered I think it was 12 stations in places like Watertown, New York, and Owosso, Michigan, 12 papers to divest themselves of their radio or television, but you have never done that with the Washington Post communications empire or the Star, except for the fact that he has to divest.

I was wondering, has there been any reform in that because I was wondering why these small papers were ordered to divest themselves of radio and television but not the Post?

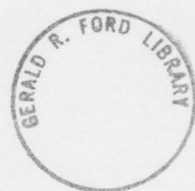
MR. WILEY: That was a major rule-making that the commission concluded about a year and a half ago in Docket 18110, basically, to determine what should be our policies and rules concerning the cross ownership of co-located broadcast and newspaper property. Basically, we said there would be no future holding, co-located holdings permitted, that we are going to strike for diversification of the mass media.

We did, however, feel in the public interest it would not be appropriate to break up existing holdings except where there is an egregious concentration, basically a monopoly situation where the only newspaper and the only television station in a single town or the only radio station are co-owned. That may involve small cities, but that is not the basic concept.

The concept is a total monopoly of the news situation in that particular locale. That is a decision reached by the FCC some time ago. It is currently under judicial scrutiny and was not raised in this meeting.

Q Do you have any specific examples of how the consumer and/or the taxpayer has benefitted by reforms or changes so far?

MORE



MR. SCHMULTS: I think there are many examples of that. I think when you look back at what the President has done over the past year, for example, in creating the Council on Wage and Price Stability, which will enter into agency proceedings and challenge some of the economic analyses done by some of the independent agencies, that this sort of effort has to translate itself into more efficient rules and regulations which benefit the consumer.

I think if you take the Rail Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act, which has been signed, that that will benefit the consumer and we will have a more efficient rail transportation system. I stress in connection with that act, if it is in our view appropriately implemented by the Interstate Commerce Commission. I think you will recall the President signed the repeal of the fair trade laws, and I think there is a specific example of an extremely important reform that we calculate will save upward of \$2 billion a year to consumers by virtue of lower prices and this encourages competition for brand name merchandise.

So, I think there are many examples we can cite, and I think there is a remarkable consensus developing, and we see movement all across the front and we applaud the cooperation of independent agencies which, as you know, are not accountable to the President, but they are joining with him in the very significant effort he has underway.

MR. WILEY: Maybe I can underscore that with this comment. I think there is general recognition by many people from many different backgrounds today that there is a cost of regulation which has to be taken into consideration. There is going to continue to be regulation to protect public interest values. I think that is entirely appropriate.

I think we always have to look to see to whether or not, in a system based on free economic forces, whether or not regulation could be replaced by competition, whether or not regulation could be made simpler, whether it could be made more modern.

Certainly we found in the FCC many regulations which are technically outmoded and those have been changed. I think it was very helpful from my standpoint to hear what the other agencies are doing to exchange ideas on concepts, procedures and methodology in this important program.

Q Was cable television legislation discussed at the meeting and, if so, what was said?

MR. SCHMULTS: It was not discussed at the meeting.

MORE



Q Mr. MacAvoy, can you tell us about that -- what your plans are for cable television regulation?

MR. MacAVOY: The description of the process the Domestic Council group is going through, that was provided by David Burnham in the lower right-hand corner this morning, is very good. I would propose that you read Burnham from back to front because the farther back you go the more accurate the description.

Whoever writes the headlines in the New York Times has never met David Burnham and I don't think he read the article, because what David says is that this group that brings forth proposals to the Economic Policy Board, the Domestic Council, the White House staff and, finally, to the President, goes through a very arduous and detailed process of analysis to try to determine the effect that any regulatory change would have. We have done that in proposing railroad reform and airline reform and truck reform in the last few months.

When we came to the present time with respect to cable reform, I found, along with other economists that are working on this, that the material that is now available to make the case for us--knowing what is going to happen as a result of changing rules with respect to cable and broadcasting--is not sufficient to do as well as we have done in the previous cases.

For example, in the case of our proposals on airline regulatory reform, we had a pretty good idea of what would happen to service in almost every city pair in the country as a result of the change of regulation.

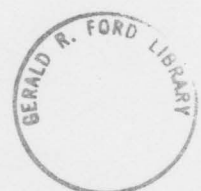
I have no idea as to what would happen to service in any particular city as a result of cable deregulation. That is because the work that has been done in the universities, in the Rand Corporation, in the Brookings Institution, in the Federal Government are not yet detailed enough and significant enough to allow us to really know what is likely to happen.

That is not true in the case, as I said, of the airlines and the railroads where the university research was a lot better.

So what do we do? Well, we work harder. Along with the other 800 things that go on in the Council of Economic Advisers from food stamps to taxes, to imports of asparagus, we will continue our work.

If I divide my day 800 different ways, that means I will be done before the second coming, but just barely.

MORE



Q When is that? (Laughter)

MR. MacAVOY: I bow to you, sir.

MR. SCHMULTS: That wasn't discussed at the meeting, either.

MR. MacAVOY: We have gotten as far with this as a first round review within the Domestic Council reform group as to where we are. I wrote a 28-page memorandum which described at least 30 different items that have to be researched -- policies, proposals -- before it really meets my standards for the quality of work that would make it in terms of being able to make a good argument. That is going to take a long time. I never put a date on any of this because it is going to require a great deal of university cooperation, cooperation within the OTP and other agencies to get the work done. That is as far as this has gone.

We have never discussed it with the President. We have discussed it informally with senior White House staff members. They said what I said, that we don't have a good job completed at this time.

It had nothing to do with the meeting today because that, ultimately, would be a legislative proposal and it is a considerable period from being finished. So that is really where we are.

Q Given the number of agencies in the Government that have expertise on cable regulation, including FCC, OTP, Justice Department and other offices in the White House, why isn't there enough known? Why isn't there the expertise?

MR. MacAVOY: Because no one has really gone out and done the field research we have available in transportation. Field research means that you know pretty well from detailed history of particular sets of services what has happened over time.

I have a good idea, for example, of changes of services on 100 city pairs -- Boston-Buffalo, whatever it may be -- in the kinds of airline service that have been made available, because there are studies within DOT and the universities of these city pairs, and I don't have that detailed analysis of Albuquerque insofar as cable and over-the-air broadcasting is concerned.

The universities have done aggregative research. They have taken the statistics for the country at large and fitted resquares, regression this way, which indicates a little more and a little less there.

MORE



But this work is very rigid and very inaccurate. Good Lord, I have written enough of those articles myself to know the quality of that material, and it is not good enough. So somebody has to do it.

Q The commission has been working on this for 10 years or more. Don't you think they have any resource that would be helpful in this regard?

MR. MacAVOY: Commissions generate enormous amounts of information with respect to individual case decisions. As Chairman Wiley said, the pace with respect to cable has grown since 1972. Cable is a relatively new industry. There are immense amounts of detail with respect to a particular issue, let's say distant signal importation, in some parts of the country. Organizing, aggregating, analyzing and processing -- that is a part of the work that has to be done.

MR. WILEY: May I say something on this? As I said to the National Cable Television Association this week in their convention in Dallas, I think with the changes we have made, and they have been substantial in a deregulatory vein over the last year and a half, the Federal lid is essentially off this industry. There can be additional changes that can be made. But I think the industry is going to have to prove its ability to sell its services to the American people -- they are selling something the American people want and are willing to pay for in the marketplace. Whether or not legislation is enacted by the Congress, I think that we are going to be able to make a determination as to whether cable television will be a force in the communications industry.

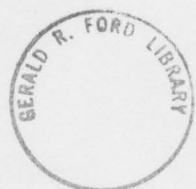
Q Could you give us a rundown on the Federal Power Commission, what their problems are?

MR. SCHMULTS: The Federal Power Commission, the principal thing, as I indicated, that sticks in my mind about the Federal Power Commission, is that some emphasis in this meeting was being given to reducing the paperwork burden on American business.

One of the things I think I mentioned earlier that Dick Dunham did mention is that they did reduce their form filing requirements from 50 in number to 15. He also mentioned, I think, another very significant area of reform or at least progress. They were consolidating their data base with that of the State regulatory agencies.

There are frequently disputes, I gather, between the Federal Power Commission and the State agencies. It is Chairman Dunham's hope that by consolidating the data base they at least won't be arguing about the underlying facts.

MORE



MR. MacAVOY: The only other thing I remember, Ed, is that the commission is going to embark now on a major study of the structure of the agency. They haven't really looked at the way the agency functions since 1950. There are four new commissioners. The problems are entirely different from those in 1950 and Dick Dunham and the others are beginning on that.

Q On another area, given a lack of progress on the nominations for a new chairman at the ICC and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, has the President given any consideration to withdrawing those nominations or meeting with Senate Commerce Committee Members to see what is happening?

MR. SCHMULTS: Not that I know of. We hope those nominees will be confirmed.

Q Does he still stand 100 percent behind Mr. Budman and Mr. Byington?

MR. SCHMULTS: Yes.

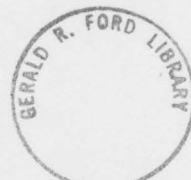
Q What did the Consumer Product Safety Commission have to say for itself?

MR. SCHMULTS: The Consumer Product Safety Commission had a number of things to say for itself. One idea that I think they find intriguing in that agency is I think they are planning for their own self-destruction, I believe is the way Chairman Simpson put it. Over six more years they are planning to go out of business and the safety standards will have been, by that time, accepted by the business community and be in place and a regulatory commission of that form will no longer be needed.

He also mentioned progress particularly in the clothing industry where the fire-resistant standards are being adopted voluntarily by those manufacturing other than children's sleepwear.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 4:23 P.M. EST)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

WORLD TRADE WEEK, 1976

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

When our Nation's founders met two hundred years ago in Philadelphia to declare our independence, they categorized in unambiguous terms the reasons that compelled them to embark upon such a momentous and irrevocable course. "Cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World" was high on the list of grievances.

The patriots who declared independence in 1776 set the United States on the path to leadership in the interdependent world of 1976. Their action enabled us, over a period of two centuries, to construct a firm foundation of commercial alliances with nations around the globe. Last year our two-way trade with other nations amounted to \$204 billion, with a record trade surplus of more than \$11 billion.

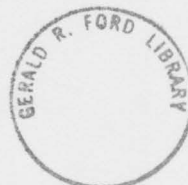
America's performance in the world marketplace is a true measure of the quality of American products, the extent of American ingenuity, and the dedication of American labor and industry to international commerce. Trade has been indispensable to our economic growth, to the greater well-being of our citizens, and to peaceful progress in our relationships abroad. It remains indispensable as we look to the new horizons of our third century.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 16, 1976, as World Trade Week. I call upon all Americans to join with business, labor, agricultural, educational, professional and civic groups, and public officials at all levels of Government, in observing World Trade Week with appropriate activities and ceremonies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

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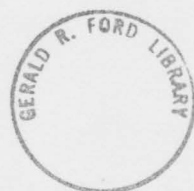
America's performance in the world marketplace is a true measure of the quality of American products, the extent of American ingenuity, and the dedication of American labor and industry to international commerce. Trade has been indispensable to our economic growth, to the greater well-being of our citizens, and to peaceful progress in our relationships abroad. It remains indispensable as we look to the new horizons of our third century.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 16, 1976, as World Trade Week. I call upon all Americans to join with business, labor, agricultural, educational, professional and civic groups, and public officials at all levels of Government, in observing World Trade Week with appropriate activities and ceremonies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

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APRIL 8, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON SIGNING THE
SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL

THE ROSE GARDEN

3:40 P.M. EST

Governor Ray, Secretary Usery, Chairman Hampton, distinguished Mayors and county officials:

We have all been very encouraged by the steady improvement in the economy in the last several months. The Secretary of Labor also advises me that the youth employment situation has shown some gain in the past few months and is optimistic about the future.

Nevertheless, with the advent of summer vacations, it is very, very clear that more young people will be seeking jobs than the private sector will be able to provide.

I am therefore formally transmitting to the Congress today an urgent supplemental request that would provide \$528 million to support jobs for over 888,000 disadvantaged youths this summer.

If the Congress will act promptly on my request, local CETA sponsors will be able to provide meaningful work and training opportunities for substantial numbers of young people this summer.

I am also sending a memorandum today to the heads of all Federal departments and agencies calling upon them to cooperate fully with the efforts of the Civil Service Commission, to provide summer jobs in Government for an additional 54,000 needy youths.

Finally, on a related matter, let me again urge the Congress to act on my request of January for \$1 billion 700 million to continue the existing public service employment program. Many local prime sponsors of CETA are running very short of funds and will have to lay off people if Congress does not act readily.

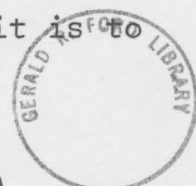
Whatever differences of opinion may exist on the job creation issue, there is no reason why local officials and those already employed by CETA public service jobs should be kept in suspense and fear of layoffs.

I hope and trust the Congress will act promptly on this important matter and I am now very pleased to sign these two measures.

I hope it is as easy to get the money as it is to sign the message. (Laughter)

Thank you all very, very much.

END (AT 3:45 P.M. EST)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 8, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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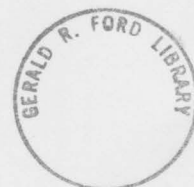
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END (AT 3:45 P.M. EST)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 7, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE

BOYS' CLUB

"BOY OF THE YEAR" AWARD WINNERS

THE ROSE GARDEN

12:15 P.M. EST

I might say, John, and reiterate what I said to these boys, that we are proud of them and I think they should be proud of what they have done. I think all of us recognize the tremendous job that the Boys' Clubs have done throughout the country, not only this year but over a long period of time, some 20 years or more, since the Boy of the Year program has been initiated.

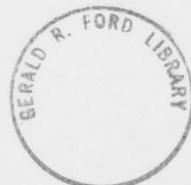
The added thing is, I am proud to be Honorary Chairman of the Boy's Club. It is a recognition of my interest in the organization and my full support for it. To see these fine young men here coming in and having the opportunity of getting their awards in the Rose Garden is a way I think we can build up and expand and further increase the influence of Boys' Clubs.

I do want to thank also the Reader's Digest Foundation, which I understand sponsors or supports the Boy of the Year program. Without it, we couldn't have these fine young men down here getting these awards today.

We thank them, we thank all of you who handle the programming, and more particularly we congratulate Robert and the other nine regional participants.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 12:17 P.M. EST)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 2, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(West Bend, Wisconsin)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

WEST BEND HIGH SCHOOL

8:40 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much, Governor Knowles, Congressman Bill Steiger, my old and very dear friend, your Congressman from Wisconsin, Mel Laird, Mayor Schoenhaar, Dr. Steinert, students, faculty and guests of West Bend East Suns and the West Bend West Spartans:

It is a great pleasure to be back in Wisconsin and to visit a school where East meets West right here in the gymnasium.

Let me, first of all, pay my respects to the Suns and the Spartans of West Bend, and especially let me thank the girls' track team for letting us borrow the gymnasium today.

I didn't mean to interrupt your practice, girls, but I am trying to get in shape for the big race in November and I appreciate your cooperation.

The purpose of my visit can be summed up in a very few words. As much as I believe in a strong and prosperous automobile industry, I am here to say that this year there is absolutely no reason to trade in your Ford on another model.

After a few brief introductory remarks, I look forward with a great deal of pleasure to answering your questions, and at the outset let me congratulate all of you because I have heard from Governor Knowles and Bill Steiger and others of the remarkable recovery in West Bend from the recent ice storm.

I understand that things are getting back to normal now and I commend you for the community spirit that was so important under these most difficult circumstances.

MORE



Now after some rather stormy weather in recent years it is good to see that America is getting back to normal, too. On the economic front, we are steadily working our way out of the worst recession in 40 years. I won't burden you with a lot of statistics, but I can report to you that all of the economic trends are good. Everything that is supposed to be going up, like the number of jobs in America, real earning for the American workers, sales, investment, industrial production, all of these are on the increase. And everything that is supposed to be going down, like the rate of unemployment, the rate of inflation, the rate of growth in Federal spending, even some prices are going down.

Just two days ago it was reported that the wholesale price index has shown virtually no upward movement overall in the last five months and tonight I can say to you with confidence and without any hesitation or reservation we are on the road to a new prosperity in the United States of America and we are not about to be sidetracked right now.

The best thing about this new prosperity is that it is not based on the shifting sands of political maneuvering and Government gimmicks, but on the solid, permanent foundation of the American free enterprise system.

Oh, there was a lot of pressure on me at the beginning of the recession to take some panic action that sounded good but never worked in the past. Some very distinguished economists and some very concerned Members of Congress urged me to impose, for example, wage and price controls on the American economy. Others urged me to propose massive Federal spending as a stimulus to the economy regardless of whether we could really afford that spending or not.

I rejected both of those suggestions and all of the other quick fix proposals that were wrong medicine for the American economy. The strong economic recovery we are experiencing today has proved me, I think, to be right in rejecting them and most of you remember the wage and price controls that were imposed back in 1971 and 1972, so much pressure was built up under that wage and price lid that when price controls and wage controls were removed, the economy simply got out of control. The rate of inflation got up to more than 12 percent at one point and that, combined with the oil embargo of 1973, helped trigger the recession we are just recovering from at the present time.

MORE



The other proposal was that we spend all kinds of your hard earned taxpayers' dollars to stimulate the economy and put hundreds of thousands more people back on the Federal Payroll, but I know, and I think you know, that you can't solve every problem in the world just by throwing a lot of money at it and I was determined not to risk a new round of double digit inflation as the cure for the recession.

As Warren Knowles indicated, over the last nineteen months I have vetoed 46 bills sent to me by the Congress and they tell me that is some kind of a record, and if it is, I'm darn proud of it.

But the really important record is this. We were able to sustain, with the help and assistance of at least one-third of the Members of either the House or the Senate, 39 of those vetoes and without threatening or weakening our economy in any way whatsoever, those vetoes will save the taxpayers of this country \$13 billion, and that's a lot of dough.

Common sense told me that the right course to pursue toward economic recovery was to stimulate the growth and the strength of the private sector so I proposed, and the Congress accepted, a major tax cut for individuals to increase their own personal purchasing power. I proposed tax incentives for business expansion and job production in the private sector where five out of every six jobs today where people work and earn a living and I proposed extended assistance to those Americans who had lost their jobs to the recession to help them with the onerous burden until our national economy was revived and its strength recovered.

These were common sense policies and they worked. Last month it was reported that all of the jobs America had lost during the recession had been recovered and just this morning we got some tremendous news. It was announced in Washington by the Department of Labor, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that we gained 375,000 more jobs in the month of March alone. Today, 86 million 700 thousand Americans are gainfully employed, the most employed in the United States in the history of this country, and I would say that is a pretty good comeback from the problems we had 12 months ago.

MORE



The evidence is unmistakable. These economic indicators are not political fiction, they are hard economic facts. The prospects of prosperity apparently didn't fit into some politician's plans this year -- that is just too bad.

As prophets of gloom sort of rubbing their hands in glee, they can deny the evidence all they want to, but you and I are happy to see America back on the road to prosperity and those other fellow had better just make some other plans for the next four years.

The success of these economic policies proved once again that it does not take a huge Government bureaucracy to solve every problem in America. In fact, piling one bureaucracy on another has been the source of many of the problems that we have been experiencing in recent years in this country. We must never forget one very fundamental truth -- a Government big enough to give us everything we want is a Government big enough to take from us everything we have.

To help guard against the danger of ever-increasing control by the Federal Government, I proposed a five-year-nine-month-extension of general revenue sharing that has worked so well for the past four years. And if I might just pay tribute to one of your former Congressmen, a former Secretary of Defense, who was really the inspirator and the prime promoter of general revenue sharing--Mel Laird.

If there is one thing the Government is good at, it is collecting taxes, as you will all learn again in about 13 days. If there is one thing the Federal Government is terrible at, it is trying to decide the best solution to a local problem. That responsibility clearly should rest with your own local officials, like Mayor Schoenhaar and those others, so the concept of general revenue sharing is to let the Federal Government collect the money and then give it back to local and State Governments to spend it as they see fit under that very watchful eye of every one of you right here in West Bend in Washington County. You can watch them better here than you can back in Washington, D. C.

You know, general revenue sharing is kind of a hometown "do it yourself" project, and in the last four years West Bend and Washington County and the State of Wisconsin have proven that you can do it yourself a heck of a lot better than the Federal Government can and I congratulate you for it.

MORE



Under my proposal for the extension of the existing law which expires on December 31 of this year, West Bend would get more than \$2.1 million. Washington County, including West Bend, would get \$8 million and the entire State of Wisconsin would get more than \$1 billion over the next five and three-quarters years.

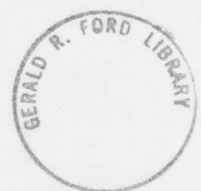
But the most interesting fact out of the whole program, outside of the money that comes here to West Bend and Washington County and the State of Wisconsin, I think you will be interested to know that the total cost of the Federal Government's participation in the revenue sharing program is only twelve-hundredths of one percent of all of the money in the program, or to say it another way, that is one-eighth of one penny of every dollar spent on the program. That is pretty low overhead by any standards.

That is what I call holding bureaucracy to the minimum and I intend to see that that trend is encouraged in other Federal programs in the next four years. Some people in the election year have been suggesting we ought to dump \$90 billion worth of Federal programs on the laps of State and local officials to cope with it as they can even if it means raising local taxes or eliminating local programs. Well, we have not heard much about the \$90 billion figure lately but we have not heard either of the proposals have been abandoned.

All of us know that there are some very, very legitimate activities that Government must be involved in -- national defense, Social Security, law enforcement in the Administration of justice, just to name a few.

The important thing is that Government should do what it has to do better, more effectively, more efficiently than it has been doing it in the past, but as I told some of your neighbors over in La Crosse last weekend, we must make sure that Government is always the servant, never the master of the American people.

MORE



The pages of history tell us that our people have made tremendous progress in the last 200 years, no other nation can match us in the combined economic, agricultural, technological, military and, more importantly, moral strength of the United States of America. We are number one in the world and we are going to keep it that way in the years ahead.

Yes, I think we have made substantial progress going through a period of trauma, difficulty, trial and tragedy. Yes, but the strength of the American people, the strength of the Government that we have, has proven, I think, not only to us but all the world that America is strong and is going to keep strong, but there is more to be done and that is why I am asking for your support next Tuesday and next November and in the challenging years ahead.

Thank you very, very much.

Now, let's have the questions -- the best part of the program.

QUESTION: Good evening, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening, how are you?

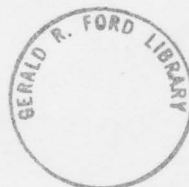
QUESTION: Doing fine, thank you.

You were touching most of the subjects on taxes and such but I wanted to go off into another subject on gun control. Were you for it, against it -- what are your stands on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I have long been an adamant opponent of the registration of guns or the registration of gun owners, period. Let me add, if I might, one or two sentences to that. I believe that we should pass legislation to make mandatory certain penalties for those individuals who commit a crime in the possession of a gun, period.

And I also happen to believe that we should, in those areas of heavy crime where we know from the records that the so-called Saturday night specials, the cheap handguns, are used in great numbers to commit a crime, to commit murder, then we ought to beef up the law enforcement people in those areas to try and stop that kind of attack against our society.

MORE



QUESTION: Mr. President, you expressed some concern that the Supreme Court went too far in its decision legalizing abortion and allowing abortion on demand, for any reason, on the mother. Yet, you have been reluctant to support a human life -- or to call for a human life amendment.

Mr. Ford, does it not concern you that over a million human beings are killed each year in the United States by abortion?

THE PRESIDENT: The facts are that I do think that the Supreme Court decision went much too far. I also happen to believe that all or most of the amendments that I have seen introduced in either the House or the Senate likewise are too inflexible and also go too far. Furthermore, as I am sure that others who are familiar with the legislative process know, as a practical matter you won't get two-thirds of the Members of the House of Representatives and 75 percent of the States to pass it anyhow.

But the more important point -- and this is the point that I make -- I think we can get reasonable remedies in this area that reflect the moral conviction of the individual, that protect the mother in case of rape, in case of any health problem.

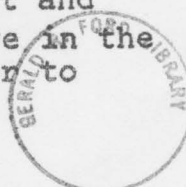
In my judgment, there is an area between the two extremes that will protect a good share of those that you are talking about -- the one million. I don't think you can get it by a Constitutional amendment, and I think the Supreme Court went too far, but, in my judgment, this is a very personal moral decision and I think working in the legislative way and working with the Court we can come up with a better solution than the one we have at the present time.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am concerned about the economic stranglehold labor union bosses now have on large segments of the working population. While it is not adequate by any means, it does seem to me the Taft-Hartley law is the last bulwark or buffer preserving the job-related liberties of the individual worker.

I would like to extend my congratulations and sincere appreciation for your veto of the common situs picketing bill and ask the following question: Exactly, what is your position concerning future attempts by the union power structure to destroy or further weaken the Taft-Hartley law?

THE PRESIDENT: In 1949 or 1950 I voted against an attempt to repeal or weaken the Taft-Hartley Act and my attitude today is precisely the same. I believe in the Taft-Hartley Act. I would not vote to weaken it or to rescind it.



QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to ask you what your stand on detente is and why?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as I think most of you know, we are not using that word any more (Laughter) but I think that is immaterial. I am really concerned about the results from our negotiating with any power.

The point that has to be understood is that two, for example, super powers have to negotiate at arm's length and we, being one, have to be absolutely certain and positive that in the process of trying to ease tensions, to relax tension, so we don't fall into a nuclear holocaust with the world turned into ashes, that we don't weaken ourselves and in the process of trying to negotiate responsible positions, where we don't give up more than we get--and that is the attitude--we also must protect our national interest.

We don't want to go back to the cold war where everybody sat with a happy finger on the trigger of a nuclear capability. We want to reduce those tensions. We want to reduce our nuclear capability in a mutual sense so that the possibilities for a nuclear holocaust are less and less and less, but we have to do it in a responsible, constructive, mutual way.

It does not do us any good to have 10 times more power than we have today, which would blow up the earth 20 times. We have to negotiate from strength to get a mutual advantage for the safety of our country and the protection of mankind throughout the globe, and that is what we mean by negotiating from strength.

QUESTION: Mr. President, we are very honored to have you here tonight, sir.

In nearby West Bend, at the Cedar Lake Home, many of the residents have asked me to find out your views on the elderly?

THE PRESIDENT: I am a firm believer in the Social Security program. I believe that it has not only helped immensely those who retire at 62 or 65, but I think it has also been of great help and benefit when the husband, for example, dies at 40 and there are survivorship benefits.

I think there are other great advantages such as the disability portion of Social Security. I think we must be certain and positive that the retirement benefits and the other benefits that come from the Social Security program are made certain, and this is where the problem arises.

MORE



At the present time in this 12-month period there will be \$3.5 billion more money going out of the Social Security Trust Fund than comes in. Next year it will be \$4 billion more out than comes in.

At the present time we have roughly \$40 billion in the Social Security Trust Fund. By the early 1980s there won't be any money in the Social Security Trust Fund unless we do something to protect its economic stability.

I took a hard bite at the bullet and came up with a proposal that I think will protect the integrity of the financial security of the Social Security Trust Fund. Unfortunately, the Congress wants to postpone it a little while longer. The longer they postpone it, the harder it will get to solve the problem.

But as far as this President is concerned, he is going to face up to that issue as he has faced up to every other issue, and I am not going to kid you one bit. We are going to protect the financial integrity and security of that trust fund for the benefit of our older citizens.

QUESTION: Good evening, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening.

QUESTION: I am really pleased to have the opportunity to ask this question at long last to a person who can really answer it.

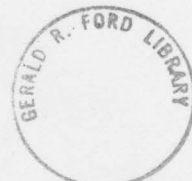
THE PRESIDENT: I hope you are right. (Laughter)

QUESTION: For years I have wondered why the Federal Government cannot do anything about instigating a real true and just program of tax reform. By that, I do not mean giving more deductions to those that already have them. I am sick and tired of reading where 200 people, millionaires, pay no taxes, where our Vice President pays no taxes.

Tell me, do you believe we can have tax reform for the average citizen?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me answer it in two ways: Number one, last year I recommended a \$28 billion tax reduction with 75 percent of it going to individuals and -5 percent of it going to businesses to stimulate jobs and increase productive efficiency. In the 75 percent of the tax reduction bill that I proposed to the Congress for the benefit of individuals, what we tried to do in the restructuring of rates was to give some overdue relief to the middle income people who have taken a beating in the last 10 years under our tax schedules.

MORE



QUESTION: I am sorry --

THE PRESIDENT: Unfortunately, the Congress went along in part, not in whole. There was a tax reduction program but, in my opinion, it was tilted the wrong way.

But now let me give a second response. I don't mean to be partisan but I want the record to be clear, and I don't know whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, but I will tell you this: I have heard in the 27 years since I have been in Congress, tax reform -- that has been an old song that has been sung and sung and sung and Mel Laird and Bill Steiger have heard it a long time along with me.

The party in power in the Congress of the United States has the responsibility, and the Democratic Party has controlled the Congress 38 out of 42 years and they have not passed a bona fide tax reform bill. If they want a majority, doggone it, they ought to perform. That is all I am saying.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am currently vice president and I am also planning on running for president next year of the West Bend High School's FFA.

My question is that with many of the problems being faced today by younger people in securing jobs, I was wondering what you see as the future for them in securing a job in an agriculture field?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have been encouraged from the reports that I get from the Department of Agriculture that more young people today are going to our agricultural universities and colleges than at any time in the history of the United States. There must be a lot of young people who have faith in agriculture as an occupation, and I think that faith is justified, and let me tell you why.

We now have 215 million Americans in this country. As we look around the world the population is burgeoning -- it is really exploding. The demand for food is going to get greater and greater and greater because we have more people, and countries and people are getting more affluent.

So there is going to be a guaranteed market for agricultural products from the United States, and as long as that market exists, if you are able and willing to work, I think the occupation of a farmer is a great prospect for young people and I would urge you and others to get into it.

Did you have another question?

MORE



QUESTION: Yes.

I also have a presentation to make to you. At our last meeting -- and we just had one this last week -- the members voted unanimously to elect you as an honorary member of our chapter, and I would like to present you with this plaque. Please accept this with the compliments of our chapter.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much.

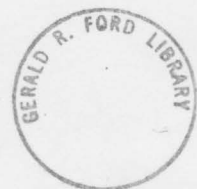
QUESTION: You are welcome, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I had an opportunity about a year and a half ago to speak to the Future Farmers' National Convention out in Kansas City, and also had an opportunity a few months ago to meet the leaders of each State of the Future Farmers and, believe me, they are impressive as members and they were certainly impressive as officers of the respective States.

Congratulations and thank you very much.

QUESTION: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

MORE



QUESTION: Good evening, Mr. President.

I would like to know about what Ronald Reagan stated Wednesday night. He said that Kissinger stated that he is in office to keep the United States in place second and Russian first. I would like to know what you think and what you plan to do about this.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in the first place, Secretary of State Kissinger said that never was stated by him, and I understand that this afternoon that former Governor Reagan said that he had not seen the quote but he had heard somebody who had heard it from somebody else as an alleged quote from Dr. Kissinger. Now that is not a very credible way to quote somebody. It just, in my opinion, was careless, irresponsible work in writing a speech that was to be made to a good many millions of Americans. If you are going to quote somebody, you ought to have the facts, and in this case they didn't.

QUESTION: Good evening, Mr. President. I would like to know what you think has been your most important decision as President and why? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there were several. It seems some days like that is all it is all day long.

I would say that probably the one that took the most forceful action was the decision to make certain that the MAYAGUEZ, the merchant ship, was recovered from the Cambodians. That was probably one of the most meaningful decisions because that ship was attacked, it was seized by the Cambodians and we sent in our forces to get it back and we got it back. That was a tough decision.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to ask you after hearing you encourage these young boys to go into agriculture, my husband and I have a beef farm and after struggling for ten years we still have a hard time making ends meet.

You just mentioned that prices are coming down. Well, it seems to me that the only thing that comes down is the beef price. We get about the same price we got ten years ago, and everything we buy is so high. I would like to know why it always seems everything is done for dairy farmers and so forth and there is no parity on beef and we hear very little about the beef farmers plight.

MORE



THE PRESIDENT: I would agree with you that the beef production industry is one of the few aspects of agriculture that has no Government program as such, but as I remember over the years the Cattlemen's Association and the various organizations that represent the beef producing industry always wanted Uncle Sam to keep his hands off of the cattle business, and when you do that you are bound to have some fluctuation.

I met several days ago with the Secretary of Agriculture in his new Agricultural Advisory Group that I have established to give me the input on decision-making for all agricultural decisions and I asked about beef prices, I asked about hog prices, and it is his judgment and the judgment of the experts -- and there is some evidence to show it now, not enough but some -- that beef prices are on the way up and in the period of three to four months you are going to see a quite different situation from what it is today. And I certainly hope so because I agree with you that beef prices today are too low, they are below parity if there was a program. But from all the signs that the experts can put together, the beef business is going to be a lot better in about three months.

QUESTION: Okay. Thank you. Then I will hold my steers three more months, and if the price does not go up, you are going to hear from me.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me add a couple of things that relate particularly to the beef business. You know, a year or two ago a number of people sold their beef to some of the stockyards or to some of the processors and in one or two instances they went broke and the people who had sold their beef took a licking.

Now that is not fair. Legislation has been approved, and I support it. I think this is a way in which we can protect the producers of beef against the bankruptcy of the beef processors, and this should be helpful. I think it is desirable legislation.

One other answer in response to the young man is, you know, we recommended about three weeks ago new legislation in the tax field that would permit a family farm to go from one generation to another and we recommended two procedures or two provisions to take care of this.

One, to increase the exemption from \$60,000 to \$150,000, and, secondly, to extend the payment of any estate tax liability over a 25-year period with a five-year moratorium, and the interest that would be paid, if any, would be four percent.

MORE



So we want to keep the family farm in the hands of one family and this way I think we can help passing it on from one generation to another; and if the Congress will pass it, it will be a great step forward.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am a student here at West Bend High School. It was reported in our local newspaper tonight that you play a big part in deciding where your itinerary goes. I was just wondering -- and I bet a lot of other people were, too -- why you decided to come to West Bend tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I had heard so much about all the nice people here I just decided I wanted to come to West Bend.

As a matter of fact, we go to the Congressmen, we go to the people like Governor Knowles, and they give us recommendations, but, in all honesty, I had heard that West Bend had many similarities to some of the communities and the kind of people I represented over in Michigan. I thought they were great people and, in all honesty, I did want to come here to this kind of a community.

QUESTION: Okay. Thank you.

QUESTION: I live here in West Bend. I am going to ask a simple question and I hope I get a simple answer. (Laughter)

I was wondering why you want to run to be the President this year? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I will try to make it simple. (Laughter)

When I became President, in August of 1974, this country was having very serious problems. There was great distrust of Government and we were on the brink of a recession. We were having 12 to 14 percent inflation. Our allies around the world were uncertain as to what the United States would do. Our adversaries were in a position where they might have taken advantage of us. We have had 19 to 20 months of tough problems. I think we have made a lot of headway but the job isn't done and I would like four more years to finish the job and turn it over to my successor in better shape than it is and a lot better shape than it was August 8, 1974.

MORE



QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am from Belgium, Wisconsin, and I would like to know what kind of relief, if any, you have for the small farmer where the husband dies and the wife, because of a high inheritance tax or whatever, is forced off the farm because she can't pay -- for the young people of this country who really would like to own their own farm but can't afford it.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the estate tax changes that I mentioned a moment ago increasing the estate tax exemption from \$60,000 which was established in 1942 to \$150,000 would, in many, many instances, I think, handle the problem you are talking about as you describe it, a small farm, and then the other provisions to extend the payment of the estate tax would also be helpful if the farm was worth more than \$150,000. That is one way to help insure the transfer of the property and have it kept in the same family from one generation to another.

Now for a young farmer that wants to start fresh, the odds are tough, I agree, but you have got some good bankers around here in West Bend and the SBA and others, I think, can be receptive particularly if you have got a good earning record, a good credit record, and know something about the business.

Then, of course, there is another way in which the property can go from husband to wife without any estate tax imposition and that is if it is put in joint ownership. That is an easy way to transfer it without any estate tax problem.

We will do one more here and then one more over on the right.

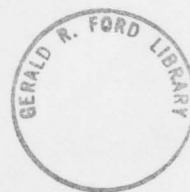
Yes?

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to know why the minimum wage is lower than what most people get that are on welfare.

THE PRESIDENT: Why, the minimum wage --

QUESTION: The minimum wage is lower than what a person can get on welfare.

MORE



THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it is --

QUESTION: It most certainly is.

THE PRESIDENT: Now there are some instances where you have aid to dependent children and a woman, if she has five children, or whatever the number is, it is possible that she will get more, particularly if you include food stamps, and any one of the other programs. But a single person on welfare, if my memory is correct, cannot get more in welfare than he or she would get under the minimum wage. Is that correct, Mel?

I think I have got two good witnesses here but we all three might be wrong, but I think that is right. And if it isn't right, it's wrong. (Laughter)

QUESTION: My name is Becky Elliott and I am from West Bend. I wanted to know if you think you are going to beat Jimmy Carter and the rest of the other guys for the President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think I can beat all those guys. (Laughter)

Thank you.

END (AT 9:28 P.M. CST)

