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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AND  
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION  
WITH THE  
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE  
ON  
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND THE ECONOMY

PFISTER HOTEL

4:30 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much, Bill, Mr. Watson, Mr. Smith, the heads of other organizations that have cooperated so wonderfully in setting up this White House Conference, Congressman Bob Kasten, distinguished Members of my Administration and ladies and gentlemen:

I have been a part of the Federal Government now for some 26 years, and it saddens me to see the ever widening communication gap between Washington and our fellow Americans.

I believe the despair among many, many Americans is over the difficulty they have in making their wishes best known to the people that they communicate to in Washington. This difficulty, I think, can best be summed up on the envelope of a letter I recently received. It was plaintively addressed to President Gerald Ford or Vice President Nelson Rockefeller or Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger or just plain anybody who will listen. (Laughter)

Well, as you have seen during today, I, along with other key Members of the Cabinet and the staff, have come here to listen. We have kept the speeches to a minimum and hopefully our responses to a maximum.

With the reputation you in Wisconsin have for hard work and keen technical knowhow, I look forward to your questions, your concerns, your ideas about the future of our country. But first let me briefly touch on some of the basic directions I think our Nation can and should take in the months and years ahead.

Obviously, the economy is one of our principal concerns. Gradually, step by step, the American free enterprise economy has created over the years a better life for more people than any other system in the world. Yet, in the past year, we have seen it pass through some very difficult times, Recession on the one hand, inflation on the other have strained the economic security of millions and millions of Americans.

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Some of the causes of our economic difficulties were beyond our control. International developments prompted the skyrocketing oil prices. Others were the result of Government activity, such as inflationary spending at the Federal level.

But, on the basis of the latest figures, the darkest days of the recession are behind us. The American economy is starting a sustained recovery that we all desire.

We are not out of the woods yet. However, as far as the recession is concerned, I think a lot of progress has been made.

Unemployment is far, far too high, and must be brought down. We must get our factories producing at maximum capacity again, and while we continue fighting the recession, we must also fight just as hard against rising inflation.

The July increase in the Consumer Price Index was a clear warning that we must not relax for one moment in the battle against inflation, and we will not.

Today, you have already heard from some of the key people, some of the real experts in my Administration on energy, inflation, unemployment and new incentives for the working people and employers.

I hope we can go further into these, into other areas in the questions that I think some of you have saved up.

Thank you very much, and the first question.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my name is Ed Watson, representing the Association of Commerce.

Businessmen are having extreme difficulty operating private business under a burgeoning Federal Bureaucracy with its overabundance of programs, regulations, laws and edicts, and the increasing mountains of Governmental report forms they require.

I would like to ask, Mr. President, what progress is being made in your announced effort to turn the tide and ease the bureaucratic burden on business?

THE PRESIDENT: First, when I took office, I took a look at the total Federal civilian employment. Working with the Director of OMB, we decided that we could cut back 40,000 on the total number of Federal employees, the planned number for the next fiscal year.

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I am glad to report to you that we ended up the fiscal year June 30 this year with a reduction of 52,000 less Federal employees than was planned a year earlier.

A few weeks ago, I was in the process of preparing a speech, and I asked how many questionnaires, how many forms have to be filled out by the American people when you put them all together from all agencies.

I found, to my utter amazement, there were some 5,200, as I recall. I couldn't believe it. I have told Jim Lynn -- where is Jim, he is here (Laughter) -- that he better find a way to cut it down, and I am going to monitor it and we are going to have less next year than we have at the present time.

You are all familiar with our determined and, I think constructive effort to get some -- what we call -- regulatory reform, which means the many regulatory agencies in the Federal Government have to start lifting the onerous burden that they impose upon the American society.

I can assure you, with the help of the Congress-- and, in this instance, Congress and myself are working together--so, if we achieve that, I think we will have answered most of the questions that you have indicated.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

QUESTION: Mr. President, Donald Haldeman, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and also a dairy farmer from Western Wisconsin.

I have a two-part question that dairy farmers and farmers in general are passing to me, as I further state, and I would like to pass these two on to you at this time.

Will the Government import subsidized dairy products in the quantity which will affect our market price? The second part is, will our Government give us access to world markets free of any form of embargoes or unusual transportation problems?

THE PRESIDENT: We had quite a struggle a few months ago when some of the Western European countries wanted to send in a number of their cheese products to the United States at more or less a subsidized price.

Through negotiations between our representatives from the United States and those in the European economic group, we were able to convince them that they should eliminate that program. I am glad to report that Earl Butz had a significant part in protecting the farmers' interests in that instance. I can assure you in the negotiations that are underway now under former Secretary of Commerce -- now our Special Trade Representative, Fred Dent -- that in those negotiations, predicated on the new trade legislation, that we will protect the interests of

QUESTION: For the benefit of the audience, I have cleared this question with Fran. Ferguson. (Laughter)

Mr. President, I am John Schmitt, President of the State AFL-CIO. Last August there were 4.8 million unemployed and a Consumer Price Index inflation rate of 9 percent. Today there are nearly 8.2 million unemployed and an inflation went up to 12-7/10 percent.

We of the AFL-CIO continue to oppose your economic policies which brought this about, because we believe stimulating production rather than a restricting production is the best way to fight unemployment and inflation.

Do you still believe we are wrong? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have some differences with the programs of my good friend George Meany and others associated with him.

When I took office, the inflation rate was closer to 12 percent, and the unemployment was about 5, 5-1/2 percent, as I recollect.

Shortly, thereafter, however, unemployment escalated very rapidly, and the unemployment rate today is far higher than I want it to be.

We have made some slight progress in the last several months. For example, since March of this year, although unemployment has remained too high, we now have 1 million 200 thousand more people gainfully employed than we had in March of this year.

The inflation rate today, for the last six months, averages between 6 and 7 percent. So we have made in that instance substantial progress compared to a year ago. In both cases, the results are not entirely satisfactory.

Now, in the area of unemployment, we have a number of programs. We have extended the unemployment compensation period from 26 weeks to 65 weeks. We have broadened the eligibility so that people who did not qualify under individual State programs are now qualified under a Federal program.

We are seeking through, I think, responsible efforts to increase the Federal Highway program. Bill Coleman over here is expediting some of the mass transportation programs to get meaningful jobs in that area.

Other departments are taking affirmative action to increase employment in meaningful ways without busting the Federal budget.

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It is my judgment that if we keep a steady firm hand on the tiller, as I think we are, with good programs that means meaningful jobs, we will not only lick the unemployment problem, lowering the unemployment rate and increasing the number of people gainfully employed, at the same time not letting inflation get out of hand, because if we do, as was done in 1973 and 1974, we could end up, Mr. Schmitt, with a very serious, far more serious economic problem a year or 18 months from now.

I welcome your suggestions. I will differ with you on occasion. But the main problem we have is to work together -- the Congress, the President and organizations such as you represent.

QUESTION: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my name is John Murry, and I am representing the Milwaukee Society of the Polish National Alliance, and for the benefit of Mr. Schmitt, he took my question, but I do have an alternate one regarding detente. (Laughter) And I was assured that you would be willing to discuss it for a minute or two.

In our relations with other countries, who do not agree with our philosophies, Mr. President, are we relaxing too much, are we bending too much, are we stretching ourselves out too much with the result, Mr. President, we may become a follower rather than a leader in the world?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Murry, let me say this very emphatically, by negotiating with the Soviet Union, whether it is on strategic arms limitation, whether it is in mutual balanced force reductions of military personnel on both sides in Western and Eastern Europe, or whether it is over any other questions, this Administration is going to be firm and it is not going to be overwhelmed by any negotiating techniques or programs of the opposition.

Detente is a two-way street. If we are able to get a strategic arms limitation agreement, SALT II, it will mean that we have put a cap on the strategic arms race, which is in the best interest of both the Soviet Union and ourselves. But at the same time, we must be able to verify their adherence to it, and they must have a similar capability as to our compliance.

What I am really saying is that in SALT, we have a unique opportunity to do benefit to all mankind. But let me add a postscript. If we do not get a SALT II agreement, it means that there will be an unlimited nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

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And what does that mean? One more destructive power? It also means an added \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year to the national defense budget for the United States.

I prefer an honest negotiation between the Soviet Union and ourselves where both countries and all mankind will be the beneficiaries.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am Charles Parker, representing the Wisconsin State Chamber of Commerce. All day today we have been talking about the need for jobs. My question, Mr. President, is there any chance of legislation that would enable better capital formation so that industry can grow in such a way as to provide an increasing number of jobs?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Parker, I made a speech this morning that in more detail will answer the precise question you have asked. But I said at that time that we need more investment by the American people for job creation, for greater productivity in our overall economy.

I do not like the term "capital formation". I would rather have the American people invest in American industry to provide jobs.

And about a month ago, Secretary of Treasury, Bill Simon, testified before the House Committee on Ways and Means on a proposal which we think is one way to do it.

Now there was some criticism, but it is my feeling that if the Congress does not like our proposal to provide investments for more jobs, then the Congress has an obligation to come up with its own answer. We cannot afford, if we are to take care of the 10 million more jobs that are needed by 1980, we must have more investment in America, and our tax laws have to provide some help in that regard.

We made a recommendation. If Congress does not like that proposal, let them come up with another. I just hope they do better than they have done the energy program.

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QUESTION: Mr. President, I am John W. Maxwell, Jr., President of the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Urban League.

My concerns are similar to those that have been expressed earlier. Since World War II, there have been five recessions and/or depressions. Among the minorities, before there was the opportunity for recovery, there was another situation of decreased economic opportunities. Blacks, native Americans and other minorities have been biting the bullet to the point of lead poisoning.

My question: How long will this Nation, the richest Nation in the world, accept our present unemployment situation, particularly among the 18 to 25 year olds, the Vietnam veteran and the people of the central cities?

QUESTION: Let me, at the outset, say that I recommended to the Congress -- and the Congress did pass -- an appropriation for the amount of about \$450 million for what we call a summer youth employment program.

I was in Chicago yesterday, and I was told by the mayor of that city that that program worked extremely well this past summer and if it worked well there, I hope it has worked well in Milwaukee and other major metropolitan areas.

We have for the last several years had a program designed primarily to help the Vietnamese (Viet Nam) veterans working through the VA and other Governmental organizations. It is tough, but through the combined efforts of a number of departments, we have made substantial progress.

I am not satisfied, but between the educational opportunities under the GI bill and the other efforts that have been made, the GI from the Vietnam war is, I think, doing as well as we possibly can, looking at the overall economic circumstances we face.

Let me assure you from the point of view of a person that grew up during the depression, went to school, worked, I have great personal understanding for those who are out of work for reasons beyond their own control.

The programs that we have tried to implement-- the unemployment compensation program that I mentioned to Mr. Schmitt, where we have extended the coverage and lengthened the period, plus the programs that we have instituted to stimulate the economy; the housing program, where we have invested roughly \$12 billion, as I recollect; under the tandem plan--is beginning to have an impact in the construction business, not as much as we would like.

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As you look at the spectrum of programs I have approved, working with the Congress, I am optimistic, not only for the overall improvement, but for the specific improvement of job opportunities for young people, the minorities, and if we don't go over the deep end with a lot of programs that cost a lot of money that will increase inflation, I think in the months ahead you will be pleased with the results.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my name is Shirley Crinion. I am representing the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

The League believes that foreign aid giving should be primarily a response to humanitarianism rather than to further United States security goals. To what degree do you support the separation of military and developmental aid?

THE PRESIDENT: I think in many instances they, of necessity, have to go hand in hand. In some cases, military sales, military grant aid is essential without any economic assistance.

On the other occasion, I believe that humanitarian aid through the PL 480 program, the vast amounts of money that we have made available in food stuffs from the American farmer -- I think it is \$25 billion, Earl, in the last ten or 15 years -- in some instances humanitarian aid with food can stand on its own.

In other cases, I think they have to be intertwined. They are mutually complimentary. So, I think you have to take each case on its individual merits -- some cases on military assistance, some cases humanitarian aid, some cases a combination.

I don't think you and I can write a prescription for the whole world, all the countries in the world that the United States helped. I think we have to look at each case on an individual basis.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my name is Edward Bolton. I am representing the Milwaukee Business Federation.

We appreciate the problems facing minority business are similar in kind to those facing big business. However, we are acutely aware operationally that there is a significant and severe difference in degree. In management, the legacy of unequal and marginal opportunity has left us with limited skills and experiences to face a business climate and tasks that require an above average capacity.

Today's economic conditions more acutely affect minority business than it does the general business sector. Still, we are the last to experience economic upturns and the first to feel the severely critical impact of shortages.

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In the regulatory areas, we have retained several specialists to complete the paperwork who also get theirs off the top and most of that time it seems the rest goes to the IRS. (Laughter)

We are somewhat aware, Mr. President, of the existence of Federal aid and support programs for minority business, but as a rule in the past have not been involved in planning, policy-making, or program decisions.

A quasi poll of our membership indicates a majority of business persons are not familiar with the major Federal programs for minority business, and of the one digit percentage that did respond positively, a majority indicated inadequate results.

My question, Mr. President, is what is your Administration planning to do to stabilize and develop minority business and to mend this communication gap between the Federal Administration and the actual minority business community?

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THE PRESIDENT: The minor business effort is in the Department of Commerce, as I recollect. My impression is that it has done a good job under difficult circumstances.

Rog Morton, I will consult with him tomorrow to see why it is not doing better. (Laughter) So I can assure you that we recognize it is a tough area to take people who are not necessarily trained in business management, to give them an opportunity to undertake an enterprise on their own.

We have to help them with money, with business management techniques, sales, et cetera.

I have had some experience when I was representing the district over in Michigan, and I saw some sad examples of people who had gotten into business and not carefully guided, as they had to meet the payroll, the tax burdens, et cetera. If we are not doing a good job there, we will do our utmost to improve it.

Now, the SBA has a program which is aimed at trying to help with financial assistance. I am sure it does not satisfy everybody, but it is under the management of a good man in Tom Kleppe, and working with Secretary Morton, where there are deficiencies, I can assure you we will try to help in Milwaukee and elsewhere.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President.

QUESTION: Mr. President, Robert Ross representing the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Two short questions.

One, what is the President's attitude towards striking public employees, especially in the area of vital public services such as law enforcement, fire protection and sanitation?

Number two, does your Administration propose to take any action to prevent or modify strikes in the future?

THE PRESIDENT: If my recollection is accurate, when we made the Post Office Department the Postal Service, the Congress wrote into that basic legislation a procedure, if there were differences between management and labor that they could not resolve at the bargaining table, they had a procedure for negotiation with the appointment, as I recollect, two arbitrators, and they picked the third.

They are, under that law, precluded from striking. That is what the Federal Government has done, and I agree with that approach.

It is my general view that the employees working for any unit of Government that involves public health, public safety, must have an agreement where there should not be a strike, there ought to be a method of negotiation leading to arbitration such as we have in the Postal Service legislation.

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Now, there are alternative ways in which it can be done. One that I think has great appeal is that, if the police or the firemen have a dispute with the city or county officials, that both sides could make their best offer -- management its best offer, labor its best offer -- and have a group of three as arbitrators, not to narrow the differences, but to pick which of the two offers by labor or management is the one in the public interest.

That has been tried in one or more industries that I am familiar with. I think it has considerable merit and, therefore, if we move down the road in that direction, that approach seems to me to be a preferable one.

I think in the case of the Postal Service, the negotiation has not required the utilization of the arbitration procedures. I would hope that in those areas where the Federal Government has no jurisdiction, such as local units of Government, or even States, that either at the State level or at the local level, they will take a look at what the Postal Service has done or the suggestion that I have made.

I think it is the way to settle it and protect the public interest.

QUESTION: Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my name is Father John Raynor, President of the Marquette University here in Milwaukee.

Recent events have substantiated comments that you made at the 1974 commencement of the Ohio University when you said, "Our goal of quality education is on a collision course with the escalating demands for the public dollar."

Your recent veto of the educational bill was accompanied by a statement that you supported educational funding but that national economic and budget conditions precluded your acceptance of the size of the appropriations being recommended by the Congress.

My question is, in light of your directive to Federal agencies to solve the problem between educational needs and adequate funding -- this question is two-fold -- has your Administration examined new funding policies that would be possible?

Secondly, is it likely that the Federal Government once again will study broader entitlement programs such as voucher systems in an attempt to expand equality of access to education at all levels?

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THE PRESIDENT: Let me say, Father Raynor, that if I recall precisely the budget that I submitted for education, primary as well as secondary, and higher education, for fiscal 1976, it was a higher figure overall, in each case above the corresponding figure for the preceding year, is that correct?

I am almost certain that is correct. Now, that may not be enough in the minds of the prospective beneficiaries, but I think it does show a recognition that we know you have had higher costs, at either the higher education level or the primary and secondary level.

The Congress--I know how they operate, I was there for a few years (Laughter)--they have been under pressure to increase beyond what I proposed. It seems to me that what they have appropriated is far more than can be justified under our Federal budgetary restraint we have at the present time.

I might add, in a postscript way, our experience on vetoes in the past, this past few months, has been that the Congress sends down a piece of legislation that in dollars is either too much or in other ways does not coincide with some views we have.

By vetoing it and getting those vetoes sustained, it means that the Congress has another opportunity to look at whether they did the right thing or the wrong thing when they sent the bill down in the first place.

The veto is a constitutional authority given to a President. It is not a negative, it is an affirmative authority. In every instance where there has been a veto sustained, we have had further negotiation with the Congress, and the net result has been a reasonable compromise.

I think we can do the same thing in the field of education.

On the other question, I am a firm believer that the public educational system educates children better if they have competition from nonpublic schools, whether they are Catholic, whether they are Lutheran, whether they are Jewish, whether they are Christian Reform in the Dutch background that I had in Michigan, competition in education makes better education for all children.

Unfortunately, under the Constitution, as recently interpreted by the Supreme Court, some of the plans, like the one in Minnesota or the one in Pennsylvania, were thrown out.

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I hope we can find in a Constitutional way a proper and legal way to help those nonpublic schools so that they can compete adequately and effectively with the public school system because the public school system is better off when they have somebody challenging them to see which system can best educate the American children.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am Jim Jesinski, representing Wisconsin Teamsters Joint Council No. 39.

This morning Secretary Butz, in his presentation, alluded to one of the problems facing the trucking industry; namely, deregulation.

If you are successful in making changes that will increase competition, then in theory, at least, the public would benefit from reduced rates with the industry realizing reduced profits.

Considering that this is an industry of high capital investment, our concern is what steps will you take to insure that the profit structure will be sufficient to continue to encourage investment in this industry?

THE PRESIDENT: I looked over, and tentatively approved, a working paper that will provide for some changes in the ICC's control and jurisdiction over the trucking industry. When I get back to Washington, I intend to have some further meetings with people in my Administration, and prior to the submission of any proposals to the Congress, I intend to meet with representatives of the trucking industry and representatives of the Teamster's organization.

I am convinced that we can stimulate competition in the trucking industry without ruining the capability of that industry to survive and compete in the transportation area overall.

It will probably be another two or three weeks before we finalize our recommendation, but it will be done only after we have had consultation with not only management on the one side, but labor on the other.

I believe there are some areas, big areas, where competition can be improved, but I don't want to prejudge it until I have had those consultations.

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QUESTION: Mr. President, I am Lois Quinn representing the Wisconsin Women's Political Caucus. We are extremely concerned about the availability of child care for mothers, for the children of mothers who work, often because they are the single heads of the household or because two family incomes are required to meet daily expenses.

There are presently about 900,000 spaces in licensed day care centers for children to serve more than 6 million pre-school children whose mothers are in the work force. The Mondale-Brademas bill presently in Congress would provide services for these children.

Will you sign this bill when passed by the Congress and, if not, what alternatives do you propose for families needing child care for their children?

THE PRESIDENT: I presume the bill that you refer to is similar to the one that was very ardently proposed by an old friend of mine, Ogden Reid. And if that is the same bill, in all honesty, the cost is so unbelievable it just cannot be included in a budget in the atmosphere in which we are living.

Now, as you have indicated, under legislation passed about six or seven years ago, we do provide for day care centers up to around 800,000 working mothers. This is a program tailored specifically to the working mother who goes out, gets a job, provides for the income, and her children are taken care of in these day care centers.

What I am fearful of in the Reid-Brademas-Mondale bill, if they are the same, and I suspect they are, you will find that in many, many cases -- at least under the Ogden Reid bill -- it was not just for working mothers. It provided day care help and assistance for a good many people who could afford to pay for day care center care for their own. And I do not think Uncle Sam ought to pay for or subsidize that kind of a situation.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my name is Robert Brown, and I am here as President of the Inland Daily Press Association, which represents 500 daily newspapers located in the Midwestern part of the country.

First of all, I want to congratulate you and Mr. Baroody on this splendid conference. Anything which improves communication between your Administration and the people is bound to have beneficial results.

However, to give you one example, as recently as this month, we have noted that your Administration has kept from the public an important negative study about international atomic safeguards. Today Secretary Kissinger engaged in delicate negotiations in the Middle East which will involve certain commitments on the part of the United States. These commitments and, in fact, others made elsewhere in the world can have profound implications on our citizens. My question is, Mr. President, will you, as President of the United States, assure us that any commitments made here or elsewhere in our negotiations with foreign governments be reported truthfully and in full detail to our citizens?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me assure you any participation that the United States has in the negotiations between Israel on the one hand and Egypt on the other, any involvement that we have, or any prospective involvement, will be submitted to the Congress, whether it is dollars or otherwise, because the Congress in this case, under this Administration, is either going to be a partner in it or they are going to reject it.

We are not going to have any indecisiveness as to whether the Congress approves or disapproves. They are going to be a partner in it, and they will have to vote yes or no. This is the only way I think we can make sure that both the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Government work together and are on the same team.

I am not going to prejudge what those terms are because they are very delicate negotiations at the present time in the Middle East. Whatever is agreed to by them, the Egyptians or the Israelis, where we have any involvement, will be sent to the Congress. They will have to vote yes or no as to whether they support it. This is the only way to do it.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am Robert Foote, representing the Greater Milwaukee Committee, and we appreciate the efforts that you and your Administration are making to turn this country back to the people.

After a few of these White House Conferences across the country, how do you now judge the mood of the people? Are we ready to go to work solving our own problems, or do you think we are going to continue to ask for more help from big brother, more and bigger Government? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think there is a greater recognition today than at any time since I have been in the political arena -- which goes back to 1949 -- that the Federal Government is not the answer to all the problems that beset individual Americans, State or local units of Government.

The conclusion has finally been reached, after the multitude of programs that were approved by the Congress in the 1960s, that all of those programs put together just have not solved our domestic, social and economic problems in this country.

I guess Jim Lynn pointed out this morning we have over 1,000 categorical grant programs. As you look at the cost, the number of employees involved, they just don't balance out in many, many cases as the answer to the problems here at home in Milwaukee or Grand Rapids or elsewhere.

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It is my judgment that we have turned the corner, and I am going to be out as much as I can indicating that we at the Federal Government level have to help the States and the local units of Government with money and less categorical grant programs because I happen to believe that the mayors and the Governors and the State legislatures have a far better understanding of the local problem and can, with the help of the Federal Government in money, solve some of those problems better than my dictation from Washington, D.C.

MR. BAROODY: Mr. President, unfortunately we have time for only one more question.

THE PRESIDENT: Can I ask you to make it three?

MR. BAROODY: Yes, sir. It is your option.  
(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: We might even go a few more.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am Frank Kessler, and I represent the German-American Societies of Milwaukee.

I wish I had been question number 13 because Mr. Brown took the punch out of my question.

We all know that the United States has a considerable Armed Force spread all over Europe. Their purpose, of course, is to support our European allies in keeping the Russians from taking a foothold in Western Europe.

Newspaper reports say that Secretary of State Kissinger has made quite a few commitments to Israel, and I have two questions.

You can say yes or no (Laughter) if for reasons --

THE PRESIDENT: Can I say maybe? (Laughter)

QUESTION: -- if for reasons of security you won't answer question number one, I will accept that.  
(Laughter)

Question number one is, in addition to financial help, do we have to send in the Marines?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I believe, sir, that it would be inappropriate for me to comment publicly on any of the most delicate negotiations that are going on at the present time.

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QUESTION: Okay.

Question number two is (Laughter) in case it is necessary for us to supply help to the State of Israel, in case of open Soviet support of an attack by the Arab States, can we count on the assistance of the Armed Forces of our European allies or do we have to go it alone? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Number one, (Laughter) one of the reasons why the United States, through Secretary Kissinger and myself, is working so hard to try and get Israel and Egypt to negotiate a further settlement of their differences in the Middle East is to avoid a confrontation between the Arab States and Israel.

I concede if we had a resumption of the 1973 Middle East war, it is hard to forecast or predict what might take place. As you know, in 1973, the Yom Kippur War, no European State became involved. As a matter of fact, if my memory is accurate, most of the Western European countries sided with the Arab nations and against Israel.

You will also recall at the height of that war there was a considerable amount of information to the effect that the Soviet Union was beginning an alert which could conceivably have involved the sending of Soviet troops into the Middle East.

We, of course, at that time, took some action on our part to alert our forces and warned all nations that we would not tolerate outside assistance.

I get back to my original comment. One of the reasons we are working so hard to work with Egypt and Israel is to avoid a repetition of the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

I think we are going to be successful. I am optimistic, although there are the hardest points yet for resolution between them.

It is in our interest, it is in Western Europe's interest, it is in the interest of the Soviet Union, not to have that volatile area again erupt into what would be the sixth war in the last 25 or 30 years.

That is why we are making every possible effort, reasonably, responsibly, to avoid it.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President.

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QUESTION: Mr. President, I am glad that you overruled Bill Baroody, otherwise I would have gotten cut out.

My name is Glenn Anderson, and I represent the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives which is a voluntary organization of some 325 cooperative corporations which has 300,000 members living in each county of the State of Wisconsin.

The members of this Statewide organization are very concerned about the availability of energy and its costs. Cooperatives provide some 50 percent of the fuel and fertilizer for our State's farmers.

My question is divided really into three parts. One, if a comprehensive energy bill is not passed, what will be the cost and availability of fuel to farmers?

Also, will natural gas be available to our dairy and food processing plants, and, lastly, will crude oil be supplied to our farmer-owned cooperative refineries?

THE PRESIDENT: If the Congress does not pass my energy program, which I submitted in a comprehensive way in January, or if they do not come up with their own program, which they have not done thus far, our energy vulnerability becomes greater and greater to forces outside of our control.

I cannot understand why there should be the present stalemate. The Congress either ought to take what I proposed or come up with their own solution. But to sit there and do nothing is unforgiveable.

Now, the second question -- or the third -- as I recollect, was whether we, the Federal Government, would guarantee to farmers crude oil, or heating oil, or gasoline, or diesel oil. We will do the best we can, but the Congress does have to give us some tools.

And if we do not have the tools, or if we do not have the crude oil, there is nothing we can do about it.

Now, on the second question involving natural gas, going back better than a year, I recommended the decontrol of natural gas in the United States. Why? Because, unless we do, you are not going to have natural gas that is available in Texas and Louisiana and in Oklahoma, for example, crossing State lines to States like Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, et cetera.

The people who own that commodity in those three States, or maybe a few others, are not going to sell that commodity at a price that they do not believe is fair. And the net result is that the gas in those States will remain there, will not get to Wisconsin, or Michigan, or the other States, and the worst aspect of it is -- and it is already happening -- those States are enticing Michigan industry -- I know for sure -- to move from Michigan to Texas where they can sell them the natural gas at any price they want to charge them.

MORE

Now, I do not think that is right, and I think the Congress is negligent in not deregulating natural gas so that it can continue to come to our State, to your State and to the other States.

I just hope there is a massive lobby to get the Congress to move. I saw some statistics the other day involving North Carolina and New Jersey. If we do not get more natural gas moving through interstate pipelines from the source to those two States, the economic disaster in those States will be serious.

And again, I do not understand why Congress has not acted. You know you can say the price might go up, but which is better, to have the gas for jobs, for homes, for factories, for schools at a price that you will have to pay, or not have it?

It is just that cold and unanswerable. We will do the best we can, but if you can lobby the Congress, I will appreciate your help.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am Marshal Loewi, representing United Communities Services of Greater Milwaukee's combined United Fund and Planning Council.

We would like to know if it would be possible to set up a direct working relationship between the policy-making Federal officials and the voluntary or private planning service delivery agencies of major cities at Milwaukee? The purpose being to make the most of our collective dollar and leadership resources in responding to human needs?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know why those arrangements cannot be established. Primarily those services would come from HEW, I would believe. There is no reason, in my judgment, why that arrangement cannot be established, and we will make a note and get our new Secretary of HEW to try to move them.

QUESTION: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am Bertram McNamara, President of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System.

College-aged students are finding it increasingly difficult to finance their education. The so-called needs criteria used in Federal aid programs cuts off eligibility at about \$9,000 of family income. The recent Census Bureau study shows that almost 70 percent of all American families are thus ineligible.

Furthermore, the Department of Labor's modest family budget without higher education requires about \$14,000 annually. This means that the Federal aid programs discriminate against the middle income families, including both blue collar and white collar workers.

Is your Administration aware of this problem? If so, what program changes are contemplated?

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: It is my recollection -- and I stand to be corrected, if wrong -- that we recommended in the three or four programs -- the loan guarantee program, the basic opportunity grant program -- and what is the other one -- well, there is another one -- a work study program. Better than a billion dollars, as I recollect, has been made available in this current fiscal year for student assistance.

This is higher than it was last year in total. It seems to me that that is a lot of money to either grant or loan and, if there has to be any correction in the figure -- you quoted \$9,000 -- it is my best recollection that there is a criteria established by law and there has to be a change in the law. Is that correct? That is my understanding.

So, if there is a change, we will have to work with the Congress.

But let me add one thing. We have had these loan programs to students in higher education for a number of years. It is awfully disappointing to see the very poor repayment schedule of a lot of the students.

I looked at the figures the other day, and you get some variation, but as I recall, it is somewhere between 25 and 10 percent -- how you judge it.

Now that is not a very good record from students who have borrowed from their country. And it better be better.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, my name is Orville Mertz. I am Chairman of the Wisconsin Manufacturers' Association.

The question I had dealt with the actions that you are taking selectively to deregulate business for the benefit of our total economy. You really have virtually answered that question to my satisfaction already, so let me just say our hearts are with you, Mr. President, you and your team, in the job that you are trying to do and are doing.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: That concludes the 19th, but there is a gentleman back here who has been standing, and I will be glad to answer his question.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I want to thank you. My name is William Mosby. I am President of the Long-shoremen's Local 815, Milwaukee.

I asked this morning Secretary Butz a question. I asked again Secretary Coleman that question. I met him before in various places.

I would like to ask you a question. I am sort of in the same position that you are -- (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad somebody shares those problems. (Laughter)

QUESTION: I have a lot of people that I am the President of their organization and a lot of them are out of work, the same as you, President of this wonderful United States of America, and a lot of us are out of work, our people.

About five or six years ago, military units came and did a survey of the Great Lakes District as far as shipping military cargo. We have not heard why they did not ship the military cargo through the Great Lakes.

Is there anything you can do about that and let us have some information on what can be done because we do know that military cargo is being shipped through other ports, and I think that not only Milwaukee, but the ports in the Great Lakes, are equipped, efficient to handle this work.

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: I must confess I am not certain on this precise problem. I appreciate your calling it to my attention.

As one person who was a long fighter for the St. Lawrence Seaway, which permitted ocean shipping to come into the Great Lakes and shipping to go out, off-hand, without anymore information than I have, I don't understand why military hardware can't be shipped from Great Lakes ports to wherever the destination is.

QUESTION: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: And we will see what we can do about it.

Thank you.

END (AT 5:30 P.M. CDT)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET

FROM:

MARGITA E. WHITE *mau*  
Assistant Press Secretary  
to the President

On August 26, President Ford participated in a White House Conference on Domestic Affairs and the Economy in Milwaukee and answered questions on a wide variety of issues from an audience representing a broad spectrum of Wisconsin organizations, including labor, business, agriculture, and education.

This was the seventh such White House Conference co-sponsored by the White House Office of Public Liaison and local and regional organizations. Their aim is to facilitate the dialogue between citizens and their government on major issues of the day. With that in mind, we thought it would be helpful and informative for you to have the attached transcript of the questions and comments made to the President and the President's replies.

Attachment

bcc: White House Senior Staff



Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 9, 1975

TO: BOB HARTMANN

FROM: WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR.

  X   FOR YOUR INFORMATION

       FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION

       FOR YOUR COMMENTS/  
RECOMMENDATIONS

# OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

## WHITE HOUSE FIELD CONFERENCE

MILWAUKEE, WISC.

August 26, 1975

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### PRESS COMMENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<u>The President</u>	
Ford Stopover Hits All Bases	1
Expands Give-Take Session	2
Predicts Sinai Success	3
Will Involve Congress on Sinai	4
New Ways to Project Message	5
GOP Lauds Ford Visit	6
Betty's Words Taken Wrongly	6
Assails Congress on Energy Lag, Spending	7
Tax Cut Premature	8
Editorial Comments	9-10
Rap Sessions an Old Ford Idea	11

### GENERAL

#### Agriculture

Butz Says Grain Delay May Help Kissinger	12
--	----

#### Economics

Stop-Go Economy Policy Out	13
Ford Aide Sees New York As Lesson	14
Tax Rebate Still Debated	15
New Program Cut Asked	15

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Budget</u>	
New Aid To Cities Unlikely	16
Nixon Blamed For Loss of Spending 'Safety Valve'	17
<u>Labor Relations</u>	
NLRB Emphasizes Swift Action	18
Women, Labor Challenge Message of White House	18
<u>Energy</u>	
Energy, Clean Air Clash Discounted	19
Private Role In Energy Stressed	19
Fight For Environment	20
<u>Transportation</u>	
Fund Shift Urged For Mass Transit	21
Coleman Asks Action on Cars	21
U.S. Official Pledges to Finish Interstate Road	22
<u>HEW</u>	
HEW Aide Paints Grim Picture of Agency	22
Ford To Weigh Welfare Reform	23
<u>Conference</u>	
He Puts White House Show On The Road	24
Baroody Bounces In, Nearly Bounced Out	25
Aide Says Ford Wants Advice, Not Votes	26
<u>Editorial</u>	
Economic, Politics Mesh	27
Bracing Words	28

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Media Coverage</u>	29-31
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Program	32-33
Sponsoring Organizations	34
Administration Participants	35
Cartoon	36

Ford Stopover Hits All Bases

In his first visit to Milwaukee as President, Gerald Ford defended his economic policies, criticized Congress, clashed with organized labor, praised his Vice-President, tried to explain his wife's remarks on sex, depicted himself as a reasonable conservative and comments on a variety of other subjects.

The President was the final speaker at the all day White House Conference. He spoke for about three minutes and answered questions for the remainder of his time.

He said the worst of the recession was over but unemployment remained much too high.

Mr. Ford criticized Congress for inaction on his energy and tax proposals. Milwaukee Journal, 8/26/75 (With 8 column wide 7 1/2 inch deep color photo of President and platform guests).

State Labor Head To Voice Concern During Ford Visit

State Labor Leaders say their participation in the White House Conference does not imply support of Ford Administration policies. Wisconsin AFL-CIO President John W. Schmitt said "People should make known their concerns, and my purpose is to make the President and Congress aware of the problems we face."

The conference is one of several that are being sponsored throughout the nation by the White House which denies that they are used by Ford for political promotion. Green Bay Press Gazette, AP 8/21/75

Ford Will Expand Give-Take Session

President Ford likes the give and take with local participants at his travelling White House Conference and hopes more people will seek his views at a session in Milwaukee.

Press Secretary Ron Nessen said Ford was delighted with the questioning in Peoria and wants to continue the arrangement.

William Baroody, architect of the series, added that the President wants more time for questions here and in future conferences. The President only had time for seven questions in Peoria. "He was disappointed," Baroody said.

Mayor Henry Maier, a former Democratic state legislator, called Ford's visit "a damned charade." Maier's office is said to be non-partisan.

The Teamsters Union and the state AFL-CIO, listed among the sponsors, said their participation does not imply endorsement of the Administration's economic policies.

Baroody said that a few organizations have rejected offers to sponsor or co-sponsor conferences because of understandable skepticism. He said: "...politics is the art and science of government and to the extent that Ford has been able to make government more responsive to the people this way, it clearly is not disadvantageous politically." AP 8/25/75

Ford Predicts Sinai Success In Two Milwaukee Appearances

The President expressed optimism in two Milwaukee appearances over aspects for an interim agreement between Israel and Egypt in the Sinai.

He told a White House Conference "I think we are going to be successful." In a private luncheon with editors of the Milwaukee Journal and Sentinel, he sounded more hopeful.

In a live television interview with three Milwaukee reporters, Mr. Ford pledged to submit to Congress any arrangements whereby American civilians would monitor a Peace agreement in the Sinai. "We are not going to have any more action by the President not joined by the Congress" he said.

While advocating tax proposals to help business, Mr. Ford called for stringent enforcement of the antitrust laws.

In defending the public interest, Mr. Ford said that all business must have an equal opportunity to compete, and that is why "regulatory reform and antitrust actions go hand in hand with incentives to spark capital investment to create new jobs and new competition."

"This is an Administration of the public interest ... we will not permit the continuance of monopoly privilege which is not in the public interest," the President said.

He continued his attack on the "runaway growth" of the federal government. "One of the goals I have set for myself as President is to cut big government down to size--to make it more manageable and responsive, more efficient---and less costly," the President said. He added: "My objective is to get government as far out of your business, out of your lives, out of your pockets and out of your hair as I can." Washington Post 8/26/75



Ford Will Involve Congress On Sinai

President Ford told the White House Conference that Congress would be involved in any decision to send Americans to police a Mideast peace settlement.

He said there would be no more international secret agreements in which the public does not participate.

The President fielded questions relating to foreign policy and a number of other areas.

He defended detente in response to a question by saying, "detente is a two way street." Ford said it would cost the United States \$2-3 billion a year in added defense expenditures if the nuclear arms race is renewed.  
Wisconsin State Journal 8/26/75

Ford Optimistic On Mideast

President Ford told executives, editors and writers of the The Journal Company (Milwaukee Journal and Milwaukee Sentinel) that he was very optimistic about a new interim agreement between Israel and Egypt but he was very pessimistic on the subject of energy.

He said that the energy question was causing "terrible cross-currents" in Congress and "frankly, there was no leadership" on this issue. He warned that unless Congress kept the deficit near his goal of \$60 billion, the nation could have worse inflation a year to 18 months from now than in 1974.  
Milwaukee Journal, 8/26/75

The President - Press Comments

Ford Tries New Ways to Project His Message

President Ford doesn't have anything new to say these days but he is eager to repeat the old stuff to the widest possible audience.

The themes on which he is basing his campaigns for a full term were established months ago: defense of detente, criticism of Congress, advocacy for unshakling business and summoning a vision of a simpler more orderly America.

The message is always the same but Ford is trying out some new wrinkles in reaching his goal of getting his point over to everyone that will listen and, in 1976, vote.

In a seven hour blitz of Milwaukee, Ford tried out two of his new publicity ploys, and he did very well by both of them.

First he granted a live television interview with three local anchormen. An important factor about local interviews is that they maximize the impact of a visit to a city.

The second new tactic is the question-and-answer session with businessmen and civic leaders. This time he offered only brief remarks and he came across very well.

Ford loved every minute of it. After 14 questions William Baroody, conference moderator, interrupted to say that Ford would only answer one more. "Can I make it three?" Ford added. Washington Star 8/26/75

GOP Lauds Ford Visit; Return Eyed

Wisconsin Republicans hailed the nonpartisan nature of President Ford's White House Conference here, and have already started planning for a return visit.

The absence of a political tone at Monday's conference was hailed as a key factor in the success of the event.

Edward Watson, head of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce, a co-sponsor, said the "most important element to come out of the entire conference was the tremendous objectivity of the executive branch of government."

He said the audience questioning of Ford and high Administration officials was "excellent. . .there was candor on both sides. I came away not having heard any real political comments or innuendos whatsoever. I thought the image of openness that President Ford is advocating was well presented and well received," Mr. Watson said.  
Milwaukee Journal 8/26/75

Betty's Words Taken Wrongly, Ford Says

The President said he regrets that "there has been some misunderstanding" regarding his wife Betty's comments on premarital sex and their personal lives.

The question came up during an interview with three local television anchormen.

"We have a tradition in the family with everyone speaking their minds and speaking quite frankly," he said.  
UPI, New York Times, Wisconsin State Journal 8/26/75

Ford Assails Congress On Energy Lag, Spending

President Ford vehemently attacked Congress for inaction on his energy program and for overspending on domestic programs at the White House Conference in Milwaukee.

The President told the more than 900 in attendance that Congress had taken no action on his energy program sent them in January. "To sit there and do nothing is unforgivable," he said.

He fielded 20 questions from the audience following a three minute presentation. Some of the points made included:

The government should create jobs in meaningful programs that do not strain the budget.

Public employees labor disputes should be negotiated and not settled by strikes.

Tax breaks are needed to help business raise capital for investment and job creation.

The President's answers were applauded several times.  
Milwaukee Sentinel, 8/26/75

Ford Says Tax Cuts Extension Premature

President Ford told three Milwaukee television anchor-men that it is still "a little premature" to decide whether this year's tax cuts should be extended another year.

He said he would recommend a one-year extension if the economy appeared to need a stimulus at the beginning of the year. He added that he would not recommend an extension if inflation appeared to be a prime problem.

Mr. Ford again defended the Vice President against GOP conservatives, saying the Vice President is doing an "extraordinarily good job." He went on to describe himself as "a practical conservative with a middle of the road orientation."  
Wall Street Journal 8/26/75

JOURNAL, MILWAUKEE, WISC. -- August 26, 1975

## Dialog With Ford

"I and my staff have come to listen," said President Ford during his question and answer session at the White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Issues at the University of Wisconsin at

problems of economic growth, inflation and unemployment. The administration's message on social issues was a turning away from centralized bureaucratic decision making in Washington and an emphasis on returning power to the states. Ford would ar-

P-10

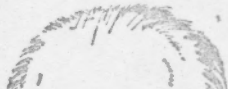
The President - Press Comments

SENTINEL, MILWAUKEE, WISC. -- August 25, 1975

# Honor for City

Milwaukee can take justified pride in the selection of our city as the site for today's White House Conference on domestic and economic affairs and the decision by President Ford to highlight the event with a personal appearance.

It will be the first Milwaukee visit for a chief executive since former President Lyndon B. Johnson campaigned here nearly 11 years ago and





# Rap Sessions an Old Ford Idea



William J. Baroody Jr.

By John W. Kole  
Journal Washington Bureau  
Washington, D. C. - A few weeks after Gerald Ford became president a year ago, William J. Baroody Jr. went in to talk about a dream he had nurtured for almost two years.

The idea had fallen on deaf ears during the 18 months that Baroody had served on Richard Nixon's White House staff. The president

and his top advisers were too busy fending off the Watergate scandal that finally drove Nixon from office.

The notion was simple but unprecedented in the modern American presidency — that Ford and top White House and cabinet officers meet regularly to explain their policies to interest groups from all segments of American society.

Baroody knew he had a

built-in advantage in pushing this idea, because Ford, as House minority leader, had proposed it to the reclusive Nixon without success in 1969.

Nevertheless, Baroody himself is amazed at how enthusiastically Ford has embraced the program. Baroody's Office of Public Liaison could point to these results:

Monday's White House

conference in Milwaukee will be the seventh this year, and Ford has attended every one. By the end of the year, the meetings will have been held in every section of the country.

Almost every Tuesday, a group of 50 to 80 representatives of various interest groups meets in Washington for several hours to discuss problems with top officials in their fields. A recent example

was a gathering of dozen ethnic spokesmen to discuss bilingual education.

A couple of Wednesday each month, a smaller group of 20 to 30 leaders of an industry or labor group gather for a similar meeting.

On top of this, 110 meetings have been held, attendance ranging from 10 to 300. Turn to Baroody, page 2, column 1.

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Agriculture: General

Butz Says Grain Delay May Help Kissinger

Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz speculated Monday that the delay in grain sales to the Soviet Union might contribute to the success of Secretary Kissinger's Mideast negotiations.

He said that one of the reasons Kissinger was making progress today is that Russia may be sitting on the sidelines because it wants more American grain.

Butz added: "We're finally learning how to use food as a factor in our new role as peace broker of the world."

He took issue with AFL-CIO President George Meany that the federal government buy American grain and sell it to the Russians at higher than domestic prices. "I think George would change his tune" if someone suggested the same approach for products that the AFL-CIO is involved with, Butz added.

Butz said that the U. S. would have the capacity to sell from 4 to 10 million more metric tons to the Soviets, depending on how the corn crop turned out. He added that the Russians might not want that much since they may be limited in their ability to handle large amounts of grain.  
Milwaukee Journal 8/26/75

Economics: General

Stop-Go Economic Policy Out

In what was billed a major policy statement, L. William Seidman, Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs, announced an end to "stop and go" economic policies of the past that had hampered growth, and announced a six point program that would step up economic recovery.

He warned guests at a luncheon that the recovery might take a little longer than anticipated and he urged "moderation in economic expectation as a part of the program."

Seidman also urged greater budget and fiscal responsibility on the part of governmental agencies and mentioned the elimination of taxes paid on corporate individuals as an obvious spur to economic growth.

He said that the current rate of interest in a number of social programs...Social Security, food stamps, welfare, etc., would result in more than 50 percent of the GNP being spent for those receiving federal benefits by the year 2000.

The answer to joblessness is the eradication of inflation, and the answer to inflation is great productivity, Seidman said.  
Milwaukee Sentinel, 8/26/75

Economics: General

Ford Aide Sees New York As Lesson

New York City's financial crisis might actually help Milwaukee and other cities with a strong debt position, according to L. William Seidman, Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs.

Seidman said New York City's financial condition is a matter for solution by that city and state. "If the federal government is going to back up cities that can't operate on a sound financial basis, then the incentive for cities like Milwaukee is decreased," he said.

Seidman pointed to a statement made by Arthur Burns, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that the central bank would aid the liquidity of banks whose condition is seriously impaired.

Many large New York banks hold huge amounts of New York city bonds, and there is rising concern that the city soon will default on its debt payments.

Seidman described today's high unemployment as the results of inflation. He promised recommendations on possible tax cuts to the President in about two months. Milwaukee Journal 8/26/75

Economics: General

Tax Rebate is Still Debated

The White House is still studying the effectiveness of the income tax rebate as a tool for stimulating economic recovery.

In Milwaukee, William Seidman, Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs, told a White House Field Conference that we are still studying the rebate question and will wait until October to make a decision on another rebate or lower taxes for the next year. "We want to see how the economic situation is," Mr. Seidman said.

High government officials have also debated the issue recently, with Assistant Treasury Secretary Sidney L. Jones saying the next few months could be "turbulent."

Also on hand for the Milwaukee meeting was Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz who argued again that inflation, not wheat sales to Russia, caused food prices to rise.

Butz told the conference that we are finally learning to use food as a tool of diplomacy. New York Times 8/26/75

New Program Cut Asked

Office of Management and Budget Director James T. Lynn said more effort must be made to halt the creation of new federal programs.

He said spending for domestic programs in the past 20 years has risen far more than the Defense Budget. Defense spending has declined from 56 percent in 1955 to 27 percent today, while social programs costs have risen from 20 percent to 51 percent. Wisconsin State Journal 8/26/75

Budget : Aid to Cities

JOURNAL, MILWAUKEE, WISC. -- August 26, 1975

# New Aid to Cities Unlikely

By Barbara Dembski  
of The Journal Staff

Special federal aid to cities hardest hit by unemployment, as proposed by big city mayors, is unlikely because of the size of the federal deficit, according to James T. Lynn, director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

"Where do we get the money for it?" Lynn asked Monday in an interview.

"What I think your mayor would like is the money he had before, in addition to the money we will appropriate now," Lynn said.

Lynn also said that taking money from defense was no answer.

"With regard to defense, I don't want to spend a nickel more than we have to," he said. "But I don't want to spend a buck less than we have to."

Budget: Nixon Blamed

Nixon Blamed For Loss Of Spending 'Safety Valve'

There is no longer a "safety valve" in the federal government to control excessive spending because of former President Nixon and a Congress that reacted to him, according to Office of Management and Budget Director James T. Lynn.

The country may be "worse off", Lynn said in an interview.

The safety valve was taken away last year when Congress approved the Impoundment Control Act. Lynn said that "the budget process on the Hill better work because there is no safety valve left if it doesn't."

Presidential impoundment had worked for decades as a way to hold down spending, however, in 1973 President Nixon impounded massive sums to gain the attention of Congress and to stimulate reform, Lynn said, and the reaction was strong.

Impoundment would have remained a presidential tool had it not been for the Watergate scandal which discredited Nixon and gave Congress the courage to hamstring him with the Impoundment Act, according to Lynn.

He expressed little hope that Congress will be able to control its own spending activities.

Lynn blasted Congress in his speech and at a press conference for piling one spending program on another without taking an effort to drop old or useless programs. Milwaukee Sentinel  
8/26/75

Labor Relations : General

Women, Labor Challenge Message of White House

The White House travelled to Milwaukee and collided with organized women and labor.

Central theme of the conference was "less for more" -- less federal government and more local control.

Representatives of labor, women and minority members of the audience found little solace in the credo that cutting federal spending would solve the country's economic problems.

Women provided most of the questions and labor most of the criticism.

The conference was promoted as a return to town hall government, but it came off as a well planned Congressional hearing. Top Administration officials parried audience questions with practiced ease and the conference ran on a tight schedule. Milwaukee Sentinel 8/26/75

NLRB Emphasizes Swift Action

Should public employees and agricultural workers be given collective bargaining rights under federal law, The National Labor Relations Board would be the proper agency to handle the law's enforcement, Betty Southard Murphy, Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board said Monday.

These employees are now exempt from the National Labor Relations Act.

AFL-CIO President George Meany and Joseph Kiernan, President of the International Congress of Police Associations advocate such a law.

This year NLRB will handle a record 50,000 cases, representing one of the biggest challenges of her life, she said. She would like to have administrative law judges given more authority to make final decisions in some cases. The Milwaukee Journal 8/26/75

Energy : General

Energy, Clean Air Clash Discounted

The nation's energy needs can be met without ruining the American environment, according to Russell E. Train, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Train said that his agency is committed to helping to solve the energy and economic problems, but his first responsibility remains protection of natural resources. He admitted that there are short term problems that must be solved between energy, economics, and the environment.

Among the short term problems he listed:

Development of more efficient automobiles

Learning ways of burning high sulphur coal

Using municipal waste as a source of energy

Farmers at the sessions used a question and answer period to criticize EPA for clamping down on the use of certain pesticides. Milwaukee Sentinel 8/26/75

Private Role in Energy Stressed

Commerce Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton said it is the responsibility of the private sector to spearhead energy development. Morton is also Chairman of the Energy Resources Council.

He said "we will be in an oil, gas and coal age for the rest of this century." He noted that this country is dependent upon foreign sources for 40 percent of our energy requirements.

Attention must be given to alternate sources of energy, such as solar, and oil shale. He said the nation's space program was developed by the government and could not be compared to developing an energy program. Milwaukee Journal 8/26/75



Energy : General

JOURNAL, MILWAUKEE, WISC. -- August 26, 1975

## Fight for Environment

It was encouraging to hear two members of the Ford administration say here Monday that the push to develop more of the nation's own energy resources won't

Train's attitude should, of course, be expected from the head of the EPA. But the secretary of commerce, Rogers Morton, also

Transportation : General

Fund Shift Urged For Mass Transit

Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman urged state and local officials to abandon planned highway projects that had met environmental or legal roadblocks so that funds can be diverted to mass transit.

Coleman said that states must overhaul their financing of transportation because the federal government cannot pay the bill for both road and transit projects.

"There are \$8 to 10 billion allocated to highways in this country that will never be built," Coleman said. "Those states that are alert will start reallocating that money to other forms of transportation," he added. Milwaukee Sentinel 8/26/75

Coleman Asks Action on Cars

Secretary of Transportation Coleman told the White House Conference that he believed that the private sector should be allowed to determine whether high mileage cars are built in America.

It should be obvious to the auto industry that it will be small, high mileage cars that will sell in the future, not gas guzzlers.

The one place the market ought to work is where one company can say "My car gets 25 miles per gallon where my competitor only gets 15," Coleman said.

He also said that he would oppose greater subsidies or more federal regulations for airlines. What is needed is less regulation of the transportation industry, not more, Coleman said. Wisconsin State Journal 8/26/75

Transportation : GeneralU. S. Official Pledges To Finish Interstate Roads

The federal government remains committed to completing interstate highways and developing new and efficient mass transit systems, Transportation Secretary William T. Coleman said Monday.

Coleman noted, however, that between \$8 billion and \$12 billion worth of planned urban interstate highway would not be built, much of it because of local opposition.

He also pointed out that an added feature of the new highway act gives states nearly \$1 billion more each year to states in new revenue, coupled with more flexibility to permit spending some for mass transit.

The Secretary also said that the 80-20 funding for mass transit was a fair formula, adding that a 90-10 formula would never pass Congress. Milwaukee Journal 8/26/75

HEW Aide Paints Grim Picture of Agency

The Federal Government's biggest bureaucracy, HEW, isn't performing as well as it should and no major change is likely soon. That's the picture painted Monday by one of the \$100 billion a year agency's eight assistant secretaries, William A. Morrill (Planning and Evaluation).

Morrill described himself as a "congenial optimist" but could make few specific claims of expected success in handling HEW problems.

He spent a good part of a 40 minute interview pushing the Administration's view that the federal government ought to do less and the state and local government more - in the human services area. Milwaukee Journal 8/26/75

HEW : Welfare

Ford To Weigh Welfare Reform

President Ford will consider proposals to overhaul the welfare system this fall, according to William A. Morrill, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HEW.

"We've got to keep facing this issue because it keeps biting people," Morrill said in an interview.

He declined to speculate on what reforms would be implemented, however he repeatedly mentioned the need to separate more clearly the responsibilities of federal and state governments.

Morrill added that more federal focus should be on priorities and equality with local governments handling variations to meet individual needs.

More structural changes would be needed to make the incentive to work more attractive and to simplify and control the administration of welfare, he said. Milwaukee Sentinel  
8/26/75

Conference : General

He Puts The White House Show On The Road

William J. Baroody, Jr., Assistant to the President, is the man who puts the White House Show on the road.

The White House, President Ford and Baroody will be playing in Milwaukee at an all day conference with leaders of such diverse groups as unions, businesses, universities, newspapers, women, The Milwaukee Polish National Alliance, German-American organizations and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

It will be the seventh road show since January and the 11th since the Baroody program started. The groups taking part in the sessions set up the agenda. Heavy concentration has been on inflation, unemployment, and the energy crisis.

Baroody, the father of nine children, admitted that he keeps in touch with his children "by post card" when he is on the road.

He is moderator of the White House Conferences, a task that begins at 8:30 and ends up at 5:30 p.m. So far he has not banned a single question from the audience.

The four C's dominate the conferences: Communication, conciliation, co-operation, and compromise. Chicago Sun Times  
8/24/75

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, August 24, 1975

# Baroody bounces in, nearly is bounced out

WILLIAM J. BAROODY Jr. gazelles across the Palmer House lobby. He seems annoyed — perhaps with the static electricity lurking in the carpet, interrupting easy flow.

Baroody doesn't like escalators either. He treats them like ordinary stairways.

"We don't handle unaffiliated individuals — we can't be an ombudsman. But to reach representatives of all the groups we have small informal meetings every Tuesday and every other Wednesday, plus larger periodic briefings, and then the White House conferences.

BACK WHEN BAROODY was one of Defense Secretary Melvin Laird's assistants, he introduced a new phenomenon to Washington. It was called "being Baroodied."

Persons who got Baroodied always were taken by surprise. It was a bureaucratic guerrilla attack. It occurred when Baroody, without warning, would unleash on a victim an overwhelming barrage of information, energy, and enthusiasm. The attack usually threw the

Conference : General

Aide Says Ford Wants Advice, Not Votes

The White House Conference in Milwaukee is not a prelude to a Presidential campaign tour, according to William J. Baroody, Jr., Assistant to the President for Public Liaison.

"The nature of the co-sponsoring organizations would seem to prohibit that," said Baroody who was in Milwaukee to meet with delegates from 18 local groups. "I don't think they would let themselves be used for political reasons."

Baroody billed the conference as an attempt by Ford to initiate two-way communication between the White House and the people.

Ford will answer questions from the audience at the conference, Baroody said.

Although the conference is being sponsored by a number of established groups, it will not tune out the poor or the disenfranchised, he added. Each sponsoring group is being asked to set aside some tickets for non-members and the poor. The Milwaukee Journal 8/15/75

Editorial

SENTINEL, MILWAUKEE, WISC. -- August 26, 1975

**RAY KENNEY**

# Economics, Politics Mesh

Ben Marcus, who owns the hotel, was standing in the foyer making a small speech

private purposes" in the conference, which he described as "very astute politically."

waukee famous, Ferguson just smiled.

"The hell he didn't" he

usually start too late to do any real good, he said. It takes too long to put them



SENTINEL, MILWAUKEE, WISC. -- August 26, 1975

## Bracing Words

Administration representatives appearing at Monday's White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs presented a reassuring picture of an executive branch founded on the principles of free enterprise.

And with one notable exception, President Ford and the administration representatives tended to dispel criticism that they were leaning leftward. They, in fact, left the impression of being a pretty conservative bunch,

MEDIA COVERAGE

Local, Area Media Representatives  
Registered For The Convergence..... 350  
Attendance..... 1,000

Good national coverage with stories originated by:

AP, UPI, New York Times, Wall  
Street Journal, Chicago Tribune,  
Washington Post, and Washington  
Star

Extensive area coverage by printed and electronic media.

Channel 10, Milwaukee (PBS) broadcast the entire conference  
live with interviews from each Administration participant.

The President participated in a live 30 minute interview with  
local newsmen from NBC, ABC, CBS affiliates asking the  
questions.

SENTINEL, MILWAUKEE, WISC. -- August 25, 1975

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**TODAY**

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**LIVE COVERAGE  
CHANNEL**



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**WHITE HOUSE  
CONFERENCE  
ON DOMESTIC AND  
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
and  
PRESIDENT FORD**

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**8:15 am — 5:30 pm  
WMVS/CHANNEL 10**

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This all-day event includes gavel-to-gavel coverage of the proceedings and interviews with the participating senior Washington officials.

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SENTINEL, MILWAUKEE, WISC. -- August 25, 1975



## 9 Hours Devoted to White House Conference Here

WISCONSIN WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: Nine hours of continuous coverage originating from the Pfister Hotel will be presented of Monday's White House Conference in Milwaukee. Presi-

comedy. Dressed to the hilt, Cher performs "All Is Fair in Love" and a medley of rock hits with guests Elton John, Flip Wilson and Patti Midler. 7-7-75 Channel 12

Miscellaneous: GeneralProgram

- 8:30 A. M.     INTRODUCTORY REMARKS  
                   John Schmitt, President  
                   Wisconsin State AFL-CIO  
                   William J. Baroody, Jr.
- 9:00 A. M.     AGRICULTURE AND THE ECONOMY  
                   Remarks/Questions and Answers  
                   Earl L. Butz
- 10:00 A. M.     INTERMISSION
- 10:10 A. M.     TRANSPORTATION  
                   Remarks/Questions and Answers  
                   William T. Coleman, Jr.
- 11:00 A. M.     INTERMISSION
- 11:10 A. M.     THE BUDGET, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
                   Remarks/Questions and Answers  
                   James T. Lynn  
                   William Morrill
- 12:10 P. M.     RECEPTION (Grand Ballroom Foyer)
- 12:30 P. M.     LUNCHEON BANQUET (Imperial Ballroom and Kings Row)  
                   Master of Ceremonies  
                   Edward E. Watson, Chairman  
                   Milwaukee Association of Commerce  
                   Invocation  
                   John P. Raynor, S. J.  
                   President Marquette University
- ADDRESS "The State of the Economy"  
                   L. William Seidman
- 1:45 P. M.     INTERMISSION (Reconvene Grand Ballroom)
- 2:00 P. M.     THE ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT  
                   Remarks/Questions and Answers  
                   Betty Murphy  
                   L. William Seidman

Program (Cont.)

- 3:00 P.M. INTERMISSION
- 3:10 P.M. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
Remarks/Questions and Answers  
Rogers C. B. Morton  
Russell E. Train
- 4:30 P.M. ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
BY THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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Program Moderator and Conference Chairman  
William J. Barody, Jr.

Sponsoring Organizations

German-American Societies of Milwaukee, Inc.

Greater Milwaukee Committee

Inland Daily Press Association

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

Marquette University

Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce

Milwaukee Business Federation

Milwaukee Society--Polish National Alliance

Milwaukee Urban League

United Community Services of Greater Milwaukee

University of Wisconsin System

Wisconsin Farm Bureau

Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives

Wisconsin Manufacturers' Association

Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

Wisconsin State Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin Teamsters Joint Council No. 39

Wisconsin Women's Political Caucus

Administration Participants

GERALD R. FORD  
President of the United States

Earl L. Butz  
Secretary of Agriculture

Rogers C.B. Morton  
Secretary of Commerce

William T. Coleman  
Secretary of Transportation

James T. Lynn  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget

L. William Seidman  
Assistant to the President  
for Economic Affairs

William J. Baroody, Jr.  
Assistant to the President  
for Public Liaison

Russell E. Train  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency

Betty Southard Murphy  
Chairman  
National Labor Relations Board

William Morrill  
Assistant Secretary  
of Health, Education  
and Welfare



Milwaukee Journal (Page one), August 26, 1975



*'Ain't that sweet! Jerry sent us a flag to rally around!'*

