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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 17, 1975

TO: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

FROM: WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR.

 X FOR YOUR INFORMATION

 FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION

 FOR YOUR COMMENTS/
RECOMMENDATIONS

***O*FFICE OF *P*UBLIC *L*IAISON**

WHITE HOUSE FIELD CONFERENCE

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

October 1, 1975

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Landing, Takeoff Crowds Friendly

President Ford, still smiling after a fast pace five hours in Omaha, made a handshaking and handwaving exit from his native state.

Some 5,000 persons welcomed him, and several hundred were on hand to see him depart Omaha.

As he deplaned from arrival, loud cheers could be heard from the crowd. Some of those on hand to welcome the President had waited for five hours. At one point the line extended more than a quarter of a mile from the gate to the arrival location.

Eager hands stretched to meet him as he advanced slowly down the line shaking hands with the crowd. He told his audience that he and "214 million Americans appreciate and recognize the important function that all of you have as a part of SAC." Omaha World Herald -- 10/2/75

Security Vast; Four Incidents Probed
Police Chief Says Net Heaviest Ever

Security protection for President Ford was "heaviest ever given to a visting dignitary," Police Chief Richard Anderson said.

Police and Federal authorities investigated at least four incidents. Omaha World Herald -- 10/2/75

"Rahs" Outnumber "Razzes" for Ford

It was mostly a pro-President Ford crowd that greeted him when he arrived at the Omaha Hilton.

However, there were a few critical signs held by Federal employees who apparently disagreed with Ford's recommendation that recent Federal pay raises be limited to 5 percent.

Pro-Ford signs said, "We Want Four More Years Of Ford", "Welcome Home, Jerry", "We Want Ford In '76".

A group of Creighton students and another group of students from the University of Nebraska at Omaha carried signs welcoming Ford. Omaha World Herald -- 10/2/75

Security Stepped Up for Midwest Swing
Aides Call Enthusiasm Greatest Yet

More than 1,000 regional leaders have assembled in Omaha for today's Conference in which top government officials led by President Ford will answer questions about the state of the Nation.

Cabinet members, including Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, arrived Tuesday night to attend private dinners with representatives of the 17 organizations sponsoring the White House Conference.

White House aides said the Conference is the tenth in a nationwide series started by President Ford when he assumed office last August.

They said response to invitations to the Omaha Conference has been the most enthusiastic so far.

"I haven't seen anything like this anywhere before," Conference planner Jeff Eves said.

Eves said press coverage plans for the Omaha meeting appeared to be greater than previous conferences including two held earlier this month in St. Louis and Seattle.

"There will be about 300 members of the local and regional press, plus another 100 from the national press," Eves, a former Omaha resident, said.

Gavel to gavel television coverage is planned by one commercial station, WOWT, Omaha and public television networks in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota, Eves said.

The Morning World Herald -- Omaha, Neb., 10/1/75

Des Moines Register, Sept. 26, 1975



The Oval Office.

"Working the Fence" -- President Learns From Meeting the People

President Ford feels he learns a lot in his forays around the country, despite the security risks.

Ford told a news conference recently that "you'd be amazed" at how much you learn when you are into the vernacular of the White House "working the fence" and meeting the people. He particularly enjoys shaking hands and the personal contacts that distinguish him as perhaps the least isolated President in recent times.

Reporters traveling with Ford have kept an ear cocked as they troop the line with him to find out just what he is hearing that may possibly add to his knowledge. Most of the time the chance expressions add up to "Hello, Mr. President, you're doing a wonderful job," or "God Bless You," or "Thank you for coming."

The feedback for Ford is a genuine reflection of the joy of seeing and meeting a President of the United States. They wait for hours for a smile and a handshake. And these forays, there rarely is any time for any dialogue or expression of new ideas.

But sometimes Ford does hear the concerns of the people expressed. He's more likely to gain his insight on the road when he holds a question and answer session with delegates to the White House Conference on Domestic Policy.

Although more than any other President perhaps, Ford has made himself available at airports to local reporters who have a question or two. He also is spreading the interviews around when he travels -- sometimes with the editorial board of a leading newspaper of the top interviewers of the local TV station.

The questions at the White House Conference cover the range of domestic concerns. Sometimes the questions are soft, but other times he is forced to field the tough ones. He doesn't seem to mind a bit. In fact he enjoys the question and answer sessions more than making a speech, and handles the quizzing with ease. That format gives him a great opportunity to shine as a personality.

It also gives the questioner a chance to pour out his problems. Sometimes the questions become speeches, but Ford takes them in stride and listens patiently. Whether his answers are acceptable or not, he usually is applauded afterwards which is a special courtesy he does not get at his high powered news conferences in Washington.

Helen Thomas, UPI, White House Reporter; Omaha World Herald --
9/30/75

Ford Surprises

President Ford's plan to address a Conference on Economic and Domestic Affairs in Omaha surprised officials at Republican State Headquarters.

Lloyd Herbener, Executive Director of Nebraska GOP Headquarters, said from Lincoln that he knew nothing of the President's scheduled visit until a World Herald reporter told him.

President Ford plans to return to the city of his birth to attend one of the series of White House Conferences on Domestic and Economic Affairs, a spokesman for the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce said. The Chamber is one of the seventeen Nebraska and Iowa organizations sponsoring the Conference.

About 1,000 are expected to participate. Omaha World Herald, Omaha, Neb., 9/13/75

Ford Praises American Farmers

President Ford Wednesday heaped praised upon America's farmers and said they are not to blame for the Nation's economic problems.

In an address before the Omaha White House Conference, the President said the farmer "has too often been made the scapegoat for economic problems." "The price of meat goes up -- blame the farmer. The price of milk goes up -- blame the farmer. Well you know and I know the farmer is not to blame for the high prices we have today."

He said the American farmer has produced a miracle of abundance which is the "envy of the rest of the world."

The President was interrupted by applause more than 10 times during his speech which also pointed out the important role faced by the farmer and international trading between the United States and foreign nations. Council Bluffs Nonpariel, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 10/2/75

Ford and Company "Tells It As It Is"

President Ford's "town hall style meetings," designed to return the Federal Government to the local level by a series of "White House Conferences" across the country, seem to be winning public approval -- if attendance at the tenth such meeting in Omaha this week is a fair sample -- but whether they are a political asset or a liability depends upon the individual partisan appeal.

The Omaha Conference, though well-planned and efficiently operated was grossly oversold. The Hilton site had ample capacity for a 1,000 invited guests but with 17 sponsoring organizations from Nebraska and Iowa -- plus the Iowa Press Association, which was apparently invited to send 16 representatives as an afterthought -- it was about 400 oversold.

As a result, many guests who had paid their Conference fees were instructed to seek their noon subsistence elsewhere and apply for a \$5 refund. Conference participants refused to duck any hard questions.

Answers by officials to tough questions may not be politically expedient for the 1976 Presidential sweepstakes, but it represents "tell it like it is" attitude that has long been absent from Potomac pronouncements. The Times-Republican, Marshalltown, Ia., 10/3/75

The President

Ford Tells Midlands Tax Cut Plan Sought
President Is Candid on Defense Dispute

President Ford said Wednesday he expects to propose continuing Federal tax cuts.

He expressed optimism for substantial grain exports, especially to the Soviet Union, and said nothing would stop him from continuing his travels around the country and running for the Presidency next year.

His most striking response to questions from six Midland's reporters concerned the apparent rift between Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Defense Secretary James Schlesinger.

The President met with the six reporters for a televised press conference shortly after he arrived in Omaha. He was asked about Schlesinger's statement that The Pentagon knew nothing of discussions between Kissinger and Israeli officials on the possibility of supplying Israel with Pershing missiles.

"I don't think there is any disharmony" between the two, Ford said. "On some occasions, two very able men have some disagreements, but there's nothing that has seriously jeopardized the execution of our foreign policy or the carrying out of our national security program."

"In the case of the Pershing missile, the shopping list that was given to us by Israel was known to The Pentagon. No question about that."

"Whether Secretary Schlesinger saw it or not I can't guarantee. But The Pentagon had that shopping list."

Later, UPI reported that Schlesinger has "all but ruled out" delivery of the Pershing missiles to Israel despite an earlier "virtual promise" by Kissinger to the Israelis.

The President described the matter as a "minor incident" and said, "I have two fine Secretaries and if there are any differences, I make the choice. Sometimes it's healthy to have different viewpoints as long as somebody can make the decision."

Ford Tells Midlands Tax Cut Plan Sought (cont.)

The question about tax cuts was prompted by the possibility that the \$30 billion reduction in income tax, intended to bolster the economy, will expire December 31st. The President said he and his advisers are "in the process now of finalizing my recommendations in that area."

The President commented on a number of other issues: Spending cuts: "We'll also cut down on Federal expenditures so that we'll have a better fiscal situation for the Federal Government." Grain embargo: We want stable substantial markets abroad. On travel: The American people ought to have an opportunity to see firsthand or listen more directly to their President and we aren't going to let unusual circumstances deter us from the responsible effort to travel in this country. On Secretary Butz: I believe Earl Butz has done an excellent job. I have asked him to stay. I think most farmers support him. Omaha World Herald, UPI -- 10/2/75

Many disagree with policies but respect President

Iowa, Nebraska farmers 'like the cut' of Ford

By Godfrey Sperling Jr.
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Omaha, Nebraska

The farmers in this area are politically fluid — but they seem to be leaning toward President Ford.

They will tell you they like the cut of the man. "He's one of us," they will say. And reluctantly they are coming to agree that while they think Mr. Ford is wrong in holding up grain sales to the Soviets they — the growers — seem to be accepting as fact that Mr. Ford basically, has their interests at heart.

The President's promise that a five-year agreement with the Soviet Union was imminent won applause from Nebraska and Iowa civic representatives assembled here to meet with Mr. Ford.

Traditionally, farmers have supported a peace-keeping president or one who, as they perceive it, has pulled the United States out of war and "brought the boys home."

Farmers have always needed their sons to keep the farms going — and in these parts they still do.

Conservative Republicans are strong in this region. They place great emphasis on patri-

otism, and they like a president who proclaims his love of country. They see this President as a patriot, and they like the fact he continually lends support to the virtues of honesty and hard work.

But the President clearly is having to overcome the still-prevailing public distrust of government officials. "When I hear this man talk, I come to believe he is leveling with us,"

a labor representative said. "I think he is dead wrong about how to lick this unemployment problem. But I think after hearing him that he honestly believes he is doing what is right. Against my will I have to say I like this man."

Would he vote for Ford? "I vote Democratic," he said, "but I just might vote for Ford if the Democrats put up another McGovern."

Ford approach wins public rapport

By Godfrey Sperling Jr.
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Omaha

President Ford is evoking a sympathetic response wherever he travels now. As he

concern to most Americans: their own personal security and the evidence that violent crime is on the increase.

The sympathy felt for Mr. Ford because of the two attempted presidential assassinations may continue in 1976. Mr. Ford's very

Delegates Impressed With Ford's Openness

The White House Conference earned a high mark from a random sampling of those attending.

Persons interviewed at the conclusion of the Conference said they were impressed by the frankness of President Ford and other participants.

"Presently there is a lack of confidence among the people and their government that is necessary to make this country the type of nation we want it to be," said Mayor Zorinski. "This type of program represents one step toward increasing that confidence."

State Senator Orville Keyes said he would like to see a similar program conducted on the State level.

Omaha attorney Thomas Burke said he felt the Conference was an "outstanding opportunity for the people of the Midwest to talk to their government leaders. President Ford was very frank in answering questions. He answered them honestly whether or not the answers pleased the persons asking the questions."

The Reverend Robert Hupp, Director of Boys Town, said he was impressed by the "openness with which questions were answered. You didn't hear a lot of the old cliches or evasive answers."

Robert Leuder, president of his construction company, said he came to the Conference "thinking I'd be skipping in and out all day. But I stayed for the entire thing."

The Chairman of the American Association of University Women said it was a "privilege that Omaha was selected for the Conference. I think President Ford came across as a very warm person." Omaha World Herald -- 10/2/75

Ford Wants 2nd Tax Cut; Optimistic On Grain Sale

President Ford said in Omaha he expects to ask Congress for additional tax cuts, although his advisers are still working on a recommendation.

The response came to a question on the possibility that the \$30 billion tax reduction will expire December 31.

The President said he could not disclose his plan, but said he's trying to coordinate a "potential tax reduction program with a rigid restriction on expenditures."

On other topics, President Ford said the United States has been a great squanderer of energy. "Our use of energy is down -- but it's not enough. The recent increase in prices by the OPEC nations will make us realize it," Ford said, prior to a speech at his tenth of 20 town hall meetings.

He said the American people will have to drive less and use less energy in the home if his conservation efforts failed.
UPI; The Daily Iowan, Iowa City, 10/2/75

Two Public Appearances Are Scrapped By Ford

The White House scrapped plans under consideration for President Ford to make at least two potential public appearances in Omaha for security reasons, it was learned Tuesday night.

Prior to San Francisco, UPI learned the White House was considering Ford traveling to an Omaha area farm and the dedication of a South Omaha neighborhood association building.

Instead, the President will use his two hours of free time Wednesday in what an aide called "Administrative time" or "taking care of the day-to-day routine a President has to do."

"I suspect the President will spend most of the time on the telephone," the aide said. "But of course, if he says he wants to run across the street for corn beef sandwich, he's the President and we go."

Daniel Wearie, U.S. Attorney for Nebraska, told UPI late Tuesday the Secret Service had checked out at least two rumors of threats against the President's life in the Omaha area.
UPI and The Tribune, Hastings, Neb., 10/1/75

The President

Ford Defends Foreign Policy

A relaxed and smiling President Ford returned to the city of his birth, defending his foreign policies and assuring farmers that their crops will be sold at fair prices.

Ford also took the opportunity to criticize the Congress for its unavailability to come up with a new energy bill.

Ford's visit, the first since he became President, was made in connection with the Nebraska-Iowa White House Conference.

In all, Ford spent about 75 minutes, about 15 minutes longer than scheduled, at the podium giving a formal address and answering 17 questions from the Conference floor.

Commending the efforts of the farmers, Ford said, "the American farmer has produced a miracle of abundance which is the envy of the rest of the world."

"The American farmer not only raises crops -- he raises the overall standard of living of all Americans."

Contrary to the finger-pointing at the farmer, Ford said food prices held steady last month. He also said that the farmer should not be blamed for rising food prices.
AP; Globe Gazette, Mason City, Iowa, 10/2/75

Ford Answers Questions
Omaha Conference Casual

If he had the time, President Ford said Wednesday, he wouldn't mind swapping tickets for his White House Conference on Domestic and Economic affairs for a pair to the Nebraska-Miami football game Saturday.

The President's relaxed, opening comments to the nearly 1,000 Nebraskans and Iowans attending the Conference reflected the mood during the day-long question and answer sessions on what Midlanders want or believe is wrong with the Federal Government.

Ford utilized the security of Offutt Air Force Base, Headquarters of the Strategic Air Command, and the relatively secured Conference itself to shake hands on three occasions, ignoring pressures against mingling with crowds.

The one-on-one handshakes by the beaming President marked his first venture into crowds since the second attempt on his life nine days ago in San Francisco.

Ford, an Omaha native and Nebraska's first native-born President, told the news conference with Nebraska and Iowa reporters his family was "enthusiastic" about his candidacy for reelection.

"My wife thinks I ought to be a little more careful and cautious as I travel around the country," Ford said, "and she isn't the only one, obviously."

The President had to defend only one of his Cabinet members, Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, who earlier had been confronted by Governor James J. Exon, a Democrat, about the lifting of the U.S. grain embargo.

Nebraska AFL-CIO President William Brennan of Omaha was critical of Butz' comments about the labor and he told the Agriculture Secretary so at lunch.

Brennan said he told Butz he was "one of the greatest cheap-shot artist I'd ever seen in my life."

Ford Answers Questions (cont.)

Ford opened his Conference speech with a Nebraska football joke, contending he had seen an advertisement in an Omaha newspaper offering to swap Conference tickets for a Nebraska-Miami football ticket.

Ford's Conference presentation was marked liberally with applause, and later he stepped down off the T-shape stage smiling, joking, and shaking hands with Conference participants.

UPI; Tribune-Times, Ames, Iowa, 10/2/75

Ford Defends Energy Policy and Moratorium
on Grain Export at Conference in City of Birth

In his first visit to the city of his birth since becoming President, Gerald Ford presented a defense of his energy policy and the moratorium on grain exports to the Soviet Union at a regional White House Conference.

Before some 1,100 persons at the Nebraska-Iowa White House Conference, the President also pledged that American farmers would not suffer from Administration policies and the international grain market.

Ford announced his veto of a bill that would have boosted tobacco price supports and eventually raised the price of a pack of cigarets by one cent. He said the legislation would make American tobacco less competitive in the world.

Later in a television interview in Omaha, Ford said he may support an extension of this year's tax cut if Congress gives assurances of greater restraints on Federal spending.

Ford repeated the need for the Nation's energy self-sufficiency. He criticized both the ten percent price increase by oil-producing countries and efforts by the Democratic-controlled Congress to hold down energy prices.

"There is absolutely no economic justification of this latest OPEC price increase. It proves beyond any further argument that this Nation must move quickly to chart its own energy destiny."

The President

Ford Defends Energy Policy and Moratorium (cont.)

Declaring "there is no cheap energy anymore," the President said the real issue is whether the United States can achieve energy independence and stop shipping its wealth overseas.

Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz said full agricultural production has triggered an upswing not only in farm income but also has made farm exports the Nation's major source of foreign exchange. While some countries have petro-power, Butz said the United States has agri-power.

Federal Energy Administrator Frank Zarb cautioned that an embargo in 1977 and 1978 by the oil-producing nations could cost the Nation one million jobs and decrease the gross national product by about \$40 billion in six months. AP; Daily News, Newton, Iowa, 10/2/75

Ford Mingles In Omaha

President Gerald R. Ford spent five hours in the city of his birth Wednesday where he mixed unhesitatingly with airport crowds before and after addressing a White House Conference.

Ford walked along the roped barrier holding back the crowd, shaking hands as he went. The crowd was largely made up of airmen and their independents.

When Ford arrived Wednesday he said, "It is good to be in Nebraska. This is where I was born so I have a special affinity and a very personal relationship with Nebraska. Nebraska is the heartland of our country." The Daily Iowan, Iowa City, 10/2/75

Ford Speech: Grain, Oil

President Ford Wednesday pledged expanding grain markets to American farmers declaring, "Farmers are made the scapegoat of many economic problems."

The President told some 1,100 persons at the Nebraska-Iowa White House Conference, "You and I know the farmer is not to blame for economic problems today."

Referring to the latest figures showing the smallest monthly rise in cost of living in three years, Ford said, "Good news of one month does not mean the battle of inflation is won. The battle will not be won at the expense of America's farmer. Nor will they suffer on the International Grain Market because of the actions of this Administration."

Ford reiterated the need for energy self-sufficiency for the Nation. AP; The Daily Iowan, Iowa City, 10/2/75

Ford Says Delay "Means Better Wheat Deal"

President Ford told Nebraska Republican leaders in a private meeting Wednesday he could make a better deal on U.S. grain for Russian oil if he could extend an export moratorium beyond mid-October.

Douglas County Commissioner Mike Albert quoted the President as saying "he needed another thirty days."

Ford imposed a moratorium on new grain sales to Russia last month and what he said was an effort to require the long-term commitment from the Russians rather than have them disrupt U.S. markets by buying varying amounts each year.

It was the first visit for Ford to Omaha, his birthplace, since he became President.

In his speech to 1,100 conference delegates, Ford concentrated on agriculture and the need for Congress to act on an energy bill.

Agriculture was the dominant theme of the conference, and Ford acknowledged in his speech that his agricultural policies on export were under fire.

"Last year, in a visit to Lincoln, I urged farmers of this state to plant full crops . . . I am here today to tell you that your crops will be sold and at fair market prices," he said.

"But, just as important, we must get the farmer off the roller coaster of up and down purchases which has been the Russian pattern over the past five years."

Ford also called for action by the Congress on an energy plan "to free America from the dependence on foreign oil suppliers" in the OPEC cartel.

"The claim by some procrastinating members of Congress that they are trying to hold consumer prices down is nonsense", Ford declared. Omaha World Herald, October 2, 1975

Enthusiastic Reception In Omaha
Farmers Hear Ford Promise

President Ford has departed from the somewhat hostile heart of Midwest beef country, but he left behind the teasing promise of better things to come for America's farmers.

In returning to the city of his birth, Ford drew more than 1,000 regional leaders who were participating in a town hall type of give-and-take meeting with Federal leaders.

Response to the invitations to the Omaha Conference, tenth of its kind to be held this year and the 13th since Ford became President, was said to be the most enthusiastic so far.

But some of the farm leaders got in their licks about the up-and-down instability of agricultural prices, although nearly all publicly praised Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz as the most articulate spokesman they've had for decades.

Although the Conference is billed as nonpartisan, Ford got a number of strong points across himself.

For instance, he criticized Congress for its lack of action of progressive legislation, principally for energy.

From the standpoint of the town hall concept, an Omaha business executive said, "I like the idea of so many different representatives of variant interests being able to get up and ask questions of our top officials." The Ottumwa Courier, Des Moines, Iowa, 10/2/75

Ford Assures Farmers "A Good Deal"

Cloaked by a security blanket, President Ford came to Nebraska Wednesday and assured farmers they are about to gain long-term access to a huge Soviet market.

"If you're a little more patient we'll get you a good deal," the President said at the White House conference.

He told newsmen at a televised interview session that negotiators are very close to an agreement, regarding the temporary embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union.

"I believe it will be at least a five-year program . . . with 5 million tons of sales or more per year at free market prices."

That, he said, would "stabilize a huge market" for American farmers.

The farmer, he said, is "too often the scapegoat for economic problems . . . but the farmer is not to blame for high prices today."

Victory over inflation, he promised, "will not be won at the expense of the American farmer."

While agriculture dominated the talk during Ford's visit to this corn and cattle state, it was an army of uniformed policemen and plainclothes security agents with earphones which dominated the scenery.

In his address to the White House conference, Ford kept the pressure on Congress in his continuing battle over energy legislation.

Congress, he suggested, is "where the blame lies" for the lack of a comprehensive and coordinated energy policy.

"We must chart our own energy program," he declared. "There has been too much delay." The Lincoln Star, October 2, 1975

Ford Promises to Stop Grain Roller Coaster,
Says Sales Will Climb

More than 1,100 Iowans and Nebraskans in Omaha heard President Ford promise to sell grain to Russia and remove "roller coaster" up-and-down prices by negotiating a five-year contract with the Soviets.

When he was pressed by citizens to lift the moratorium on shipments to Russia and other countries now, President Ford pleaded for patience, promising that "farmers will like the deal" and that "we'll sell more than we have already contracted to sell."

Ford's talk and friendly attitude took some of the sharp sting off his recent order to stop shipments of surplus corn and wheat. Many of those present expressed renewed confidence in government and most were impressed by the Ford Cabinet members.

Eleven hundred invited participants attended the session which included a question and answer session with President Ford.

Transportation Secretary William Coleman said the Ford Administration will continue efforts to complete low portions of the interstate highway system.

He said President Ford is determined that the Nation's highway system will not fall in disrepair as have some of the Nation's railways.

Coleman suggested that the Federal gasoline tax be decreased by one cent in states which boost their state gasoline tax by a like amount. That way he said, the money raised would go directly to the states and there would be no increase in cost for motorists.

He said the Administration would like to consolidate the 31 existing highway programs in the four broad categories -- rural, urban, safety and interstate.

William J. Baroody, Jr., the President's Assistant for Public Liaison, said there has been growing skepticism on the part of American citizens leading to a loss of confidence not only in just government, but also in other American institutions.

Baroody said the major objective of the Conference is restoration of public confidence in the government. The Daily Hub, Kierney, Neb., 10/1/75; AP

Ford Supports Butz

President Ford strongly defended Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz in Omaha.

"I can assure you that Secretary Butz is an affirmative spokesman for agriculture. I think most farmers support him and I back him fully," the President said.

He said, "I happen to believe that Earl Butz has done an excellent job on defending agriculture."

Ford said Soviet grain purchases from the United States will hopefully be stabilized in the future.

He echoed statements made earlier in the day by Agriculture Secretary Butz.

"If anybody wants to buy sizeable amounts of grain in the future, they'll have to come to us."

The President's remarks were made in an interview with Omaha-area newsmen. He answered a wide-range of questions during the 30-minute interview including questions on energy policy, strategic weapons, crime, CIA activities, Mid East Peace Agreement, the MIA issue and his plan to run for full term next year.

Asked if the two recent attempts on his life in California had made any of his family members advise against running in 1976, Ford said, "my wife thinks that I should be a little careful and cautious." Ford said he is being more cautious in his trips nationwide and that he will not let any "unusual circumstances" deter him from his travels. Associated Press, and The Daily Ledger, Fairfield, Iowa, October 2, 1975

Farm Bureau Has Letters Written to President Ford

Handwritten letters from farmers and ranchers advocating a free export grain market were collected by the Nebraska Farm Bureau Monday.

About 300 farmers and ranchers from 20 counties turned out at a meeting Monday and most of them gave their objections to the moratorium on grain sales to Russia, Poland and other Eastern European nations. AP & Times Herald, 9/30/75

Grange Chief Says Ford Broke Pledge

"The President broke his promise to farmers when he vetoed the Farm Bill last spring. He said that he wouldn't impose export limits, but he did it again today by banning exports to Poland," John Scott, National Master of the Grange, said Tuesday.

Scott, in Lincoln for his convention, cited several issues he described as "particularly hot in Congress."

"The one that all of Congress stirred up is the issue of the environmental protection agency cancelling agricultural chemicals. Each time they ban a chemical, its replacement is less effective and more expensive," he said.

Scott is worried about fuel supplies for farmers, but pleased about one promise President Ford did keep. "He promised that he would arrange a refund of six cents a gallon to farmers for fuel use for actual farming. This is a rebate on the import tax charged for imported oil," he said. Lincoln Star, 9/24/75

Omaha World-Herald, Wednesday, October 1, 1973

Omaha World-Herald Editorials

Unsigned articles below are the opinion of The World-Herald

Welcome, Mr. President

Omaha is not Gerald Ford's home town. Grand Rapids has that honor. But people of the area take pride in the fact that he was born here and that he reflects in a number of ways the values and down-to-earth attitude of so many of his countrymen.

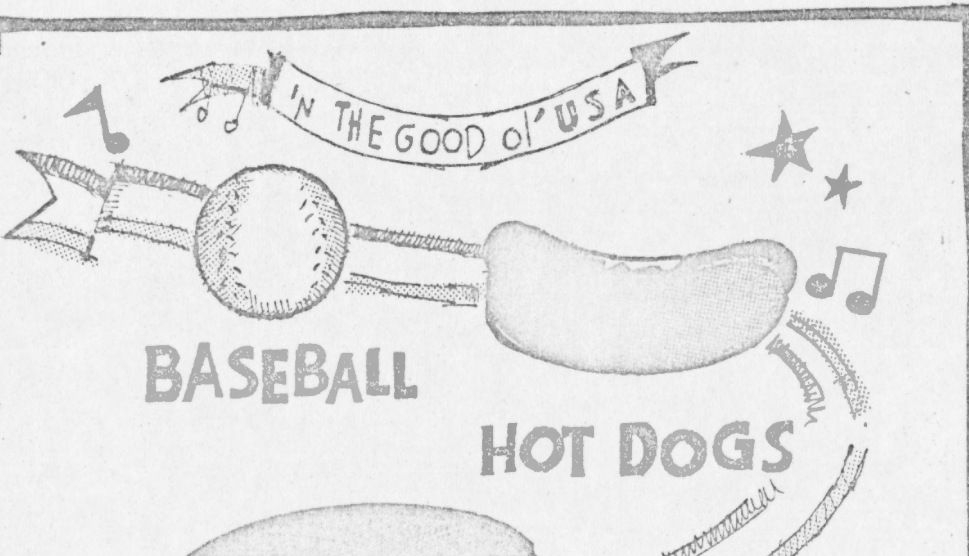
* * *

He has visited us as a Michigan congressman and as vice president. He comes today as President in

criticism does Gerald Ford a disservice.

He is by nature an issue-oriented man. He **does** care what people have to say and he is known as a patient listener.

He has the choice of sitting in the White House and listening to what his staff and his advisers tell him — augmented, of course, by what visitors have to say. Or he can do what he did as a legislator for 25 years in going



Omaha World-Herald

Editorials

Oct. 3, 1975

Unsigned articles below are the opinion of The World-Herald

The Ford Team's Visit

President Ford and his associates have come and gone, leaving the area better informed about the administration's intentions and aspirations and having heard the viewpoints and concerns of people who live here.

* * *

The White House likes to call such

capable of solving a lot of the problems that politicians have said they can solve and which people had believed they could solve.

Disenchantment with Big Government is real and people like to be told that Washington will cut back.

But there is a curious contradiction, and it surfaced at the Omaha confer-

Editorial Page

4 The Lincoln Star Saturday, October 4, 1975

It's Only A Law

The Ford administration sure made a grandstand play to the motorcyclist voting bloc this week. Add states righters to the audience, too.

In Omaha Wednesday, Transportation Secretary William Coleman declared that the administration has no plans to implement a provision in federal law that would cut off federal highway funds to a state which doesn't have a motorcycle helmet safety law.

"The proposal to cut off funds for states that don't have a motorcycle helmet law was never a part of administration policy. It was put into the law by the Democratic-controlled Congress," Coleman told an audience attending a session of the White House Conference on Economic and Domestic Affairs. "I don't

only because one or another minor part of a federal model has not been enacted by a state. That is cutting off the nose to spite the face, so to speak. It certainly defeats the desired safety goal.

We also believe that government steps too far over the line in controlling the day-to-day living of people. Motorcycle helmet legislation intrudes into the area, we think, of personal responsibility. But it is the law, apparently. In Nebraska, a helmet statute is on the books but is not being enforced pending a court ruling. Still, the federal provision that funds are to be withheld if a state does not comply with federal demands, even if it does not make much sense, is still the law — passed by Congress and whether Congress is controlled by Democrats or not does not make any

'Exchange of ideas was especially good'

(Related stores page 1)
"The exchange of ideas between Washington participants and our state was especially good — it was to the point



The Tribune, Hastings, Nebraska
October 2, 1975

Funds cutoff said 'last possibility'

OMAHA (UPI) — Transportation Secretary William T. Coleman Jr.

Evening Journal
Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 3, 1975

Editorial

communicating with the people

President Ford, his cabinet and staff certainly deserve our thanks for holding the White House Conference in Omaha Wednesday. The President promised an open White House and if the other nine conferences were as effective as the Omaha meeting, he has accomplished his goal of better communication and understanding.

There were dire predictions that the people of the Midlands would meet at the conference, determined to force the issue of lifting the grain embargo. The President and his agriculture secretary Earl Butz were aware of this, and no doubt, they prepared for a real confrontation.

Even in programs where he and his strong interest and support, Ford refused spending, promising to veto acts of provide for continuing support within programs in education, health, welfare always with the proviso that the state actually plan for the administration of This is a most refreshing change from we have all grown to fear. It is indeed President and his cabinet have the power for the principle that government should be for the people cannot do for themselves.

Ford and Butz Well Received

Paradoxically, Butz was the star of the show, even though some of his listeners told him they disagreed with his grain-export embargo, and beef-import policy.

Presidential security at the Hilton Hotel was extremely heavy but unobtrusive. The conference, tenth in a series and programmed so citizens can expressed viewpoints to Cabinet members, was said by an Administration spokesman to be the most enthusiastic and well attended of those held to date.

Cabinets members met with groups Tuesday night and then on Wednesday were tightly scheduled for appearances and interviews.

Ford said recent government indexes point to an upturn in the economy, but he warned the recession is not over. Looking intently at his audience, he said, "The victory will not be achieved at the expense of the farmer."

After citing he is determined to solve the Nation's energy problem, he blamed for "postponing hard and unpleasant choices" and failing to write a comprehensive program.

Butz, the first Cabinet member on stage at the start of the conference, began by asking the audience, "Who thinks food prices are too high?" A good number of hands were raised. "Now who thinks their salary is too high?" he asked, and no one responded. Appreciative applause followed at the brief pause.

He explained that one bushel of wheat, selling for \$4.25, can multiply into 70 loaves of bread, meaning about six cents, represented 2-1/2 slices in the farmer's share.

Again alluding to labor-union practices, he said, "Farmers are the best inflation fighters in the U.S. They don't put two drivers in a tractor's seat, and they don't tell Bossy to shut it off for three days while they take the long weekend.

When Butz was challenged on beef-imports, he cautioned, "Trade is a two-way street. Others can play the same game. We must negotiate on a global basis." Cherokee Times, Cherokee, Iowa, October 2, 1975

Butz' Food Policy -- Plenty

Agriculture Secretary Butz told Nebraska Governor Exon Wednesday, "You are going to like the agreement that's going to come out of the current negotiations with the USSR."

Butz responded at a White House Conference in Omaha after Exon said, "I'm amazed that the key question hasn't been asked yet today. Can we expect you this morning or the President this afternoon to announce an end to the embargo" on grain shipments to the Soviet Union and Poland?

Butz said the United States would get a guaranteed minimum purchase from the Soviets, thus avoiding high impacts on the market caused by sporadic sales.

Butz was the first of six speakers. He said that imported energy cost about \$25 billion, and "agriculture almost pays for it."

Butz said some consumers have a "knee-jerk emotional reaction when we sell anything to Russia," but said the U.S. had sold huge quantities of wheat to India and China and those sales did not draw criticism. The Sun, Beatrice, Neb., 10/1/75

Butz: "Instant Experts" Meddling In USDA Policy

Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz said in Omaha that "Washington is too full of instant experts in agriculture who are meddling in his Department's policymaking and constantly frustrating me."

"They know all the rules of policymaking, and they know their econo-metric equations," Butz said. "But they don't have good farm judgment to pluck into those equations."

Butz stressed in an interview that Secretary of State Kissinger is not one of those who plague him. However, he mentioned labor leader George Meany as one who does. Des Moines Register, Des Moines, Iowa, 10/2/75

Bread Butters Up Audience

The loaf of bread that Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz used during the White House conference was purchased in Omaha, but not by the Secretary.

Butz used the 49-cent, one-pound loaf of white bread to illustrate the farmer's share of the price of bread . . . two slices and the heel . . . about six cents worth of wheat.

Butz said later he had used the loaf gimmick dozens of times in speeches.

The man who purchased the bread was Quentin Bierman of Omaha, area supervisor of the Packers and Stockyards Association who served as Butz' escort.

Coin Flips to Trucker

Secretary Butz shelled out a quarter for a glowing compliment, but the recipient had a better idea.

The coin tossing unfolded when Eugene Glock of Rising City, the first questioner to take the microphone, called Butz the "best Secretary of Agriculture in many years."

Butz promptly tossed a surprised Glock a quarter.

After his question was answered by Butz, Glock said: "You may need this to get another loaf of bread from that truck driver" and he flipped the quarter back.

Earlier, Butz had made a reference to the cost involved in trucking bread from the baker to the supermarket.

Glock is President of the Nebraska Soybean Association. Omaha World Herald, October 2, 1975

Butz Expects Sales Agreement With Soviets by Mid-October

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz said Wednesday State and Agriculture Department negotiators in Moscow are hopeful of concluding a long-term grain agreement with the Soviet Union by mid-October.

Butz said talk of the State Department overruling the Agriculture Department in these negotiations "is

lunch programs were caused by the "tremendously powerful school lunch lobby," which he called "part of the hunger lobby."

Butz said 70 per cent of next year's Agriculture Department budget will be composed of welfare programs.

"It's got me frightened," Butz said.

Butz said a wedge had been driven



Conference Objectives: To Restore Confidence

William J. Baroody, Jr., the President's Assistant for Public Liaison, says a major objective of regional conferences is restoration of the public confidence in government.

The tenth conference in a series of 20 is scheduled in Omaha and will be highlighted by an appearance by President Ford. Several Cabinet members will also participate.

Baroody said there has been growing skepticism on the part of American citizens leading a loss of confidence not just in government, but also in other American institutions.

He said the major objectives are to restore confidence and obtain public suggestions and criticism aimed at improving policies of the Ford Administration. He said the public skepticism was affected by Watergate and Vietnam, although it existed before both.

At least six percent of the Conference time will be devoted to questions and answers between Conference speakers and participants. He said the Conference will be taped and transcripts sent to persons whose areas of responsibility are discussed.

Baroody said the Conferences "provide opportunities for a two-way contact at the national, State and grassroot levels," small, medium and large cities. In responding to a question on the Conferences and a different atmosphere in the government under Ford compared with previous Administrations it gives citizens a good sense of who is making decisions affecting their lives -- not just seeing a picture on the tube or a name at the bottom of a proclamation. AP; Daily Hub, 10/1/75

Need For Contact Outweighs Risks -- Presidential Aide Says

The need for continued Presidential contact with Americans outside the White House outweighs the risk involved, a Presidential assistant said in Omaha.

President Ford "cannot and will not let a tiny minority hold him hostage in the White House," William Baroody, Jr., Assistant to the President for Public Liaison declared in an Omaha interview.

"I deeply believe in our country and in our system. Central to that process, particularly now, with all the recent skepticism and the breakdown in confidence in public officials is the need to engage in a dialogue with the President," Baroody said.

Public and educational television stations in Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska are planning to telecast live coverage of the White House Conference.

Baroody said Ford has "made it clear that he feels strongly that in an open society, the President has to have contact with the people."

"Naturally, I am concerned for his safety both as a member of his staff, who has known him for 15 years, and as an American citizen." Lincoln Star, 9/24/75

Ford: Handles Job Privately

President Ford was whisked into and out of this, his birthplace city, under tight security Wednesday with just enough time to "listen and learn" at the 10th in a series of Presidential "town hall" meetings.

But the fact was he did as much talking as listening in winding up an all-day session during which some of his top Administrative officials addressed an estimated 1,100 business, labor, agriculture, and educational leaders from Iowa and Nebraska, then answered their questions. The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 10/2/75

Omaha World-Herald, Wednesday, September 24, 1975

Ford Spokesman Says Conferences Help Mold Policy

By David Beeder

History might have been different if there had been White House conferences over the last 20 years like the one scheduled in Omaha Oct. 1, a presidential aide said Tuesday.

William J. Baroody Jr., assistant to the President for public liaison, said the Omaha meeting would be the 10th



\$20 Price Tag

All sessions will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton, and the costs to participants is \$20 a person including lunch.

Participants are selected by sponsoring organizations, which are:

The American Association of University Women, chambers of commerce in Council Bluffs, Omaha and Lincoln, Creighton University, AFL-CIO organizations in the two states, Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, Nebraska Association of Commerce and Industry, Farm Bureau Federation, Future Farmers of America, Nebraska Press Association, Women's Political Caucus, University of Nebraska and the Urban League.

Conference Called "New" Town Hall

What William J. Baroody, Jr., describes as "a modern adaptation of the old town hall meeting" will open a one-day stand at Omaha's Hilton Hotel with President Ford, more than one thousand delegates, six high-ranking government officials and around 400 members of the press scheduled to attend.

The Omaha session is billed as the Nebraska-Iowa White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs.

Baroody, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, said representatives from 17 diverse organizations ranging from the AFL-CIO to Chambers of Commerce in Omaha and Council Bluffs will attend.

The purposes of the Conference, said the 37-year-old Baroody, are twofold. "The event is part of an attempt to open up the White House to two-way communication," he said. "The officials here will come to learn and also to explain the rationale behind the governmental policies."

He said the give and take gives Federal officials insight on how national policies affect the various segments of society in different sections of the country.

He described the Conference as only "the tip of the iceberg" and the Ford Administration's efforts to keep in touch with the citizens and to restore their confidence in government.

He said 18 to 30 leaders from labor organizations to women's groups meet every other Wednesday at the White House to discuss a wide range of subjects. And every Tuesday he said, a group of 60-80 national, State and local leaders assemble to focus on a single issue usually involving human resources.

Morning World Herald, Omaha, 10/1/75

Ford's Conference Marks Are Mostly High

By David Beeder

President Ford and his Nebraska-Iowa White House Conference received high marks Thursday from a cross-section of participants.

There were a few critical comments directed at Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz by labor union leaders, but most participants said the one-day conference Wednesday was worthwhile.

Farmers appeared to be sat-

isfied with the discussion of Middle Eastern oil countries," Warner said.

'Cheap Shot Artist'

Labor leaders were angered by Butz's reference to AFL-CIO longshoremen who last month refused to load ships with grain for export, saying they feared U.S. food prices would rise.

At the conference, Butz said:

"If the longshoremen are really concerned about the cost of food, they should cut out featherbedding costs which jack the cost of living up."

the mile. If that isn't production, I don't know what is."

Some drivers are paid by weight, he said. Either way, he said, "they have to produce to make the money."

As for most bread truck drivers, they are paid a commission, based on what they sell, McFarland said.

Gov. Exon, who tried unsuccessfully to pin down Butz on when the export moratorium will end, was reported by an

He said he also was impressed with the discussion by Butz of agri-power in the United States compared with petro-power in the Middle Eastern countries.

Sen. Cal Carstens of Avoca, a farmer, said explanation of the need for the grain moratorium was reassuring.

"I was a little apprehensive about this decision before the conference," he said. "After listening to the President, his wisdom sounds feasible for the

Omaha attorney Thomas Burke said he felt the conference was an "outstanding opportunity for the people of the Midwest to talk to their government leaders. President Ford was very frank in answering questions. He answered them honestly whether or not the answer pleased the person asking the question."

The Rev. Robert Hupp, director of Boys Town, said he was impressed by the "openness with which questions were an-

Conference

Ag, Economic Issues Seem to Top the Agenda

Issues on the agriculture and the economy will probably emerge as the topic of the discussion list at the Omaha White House Conference.

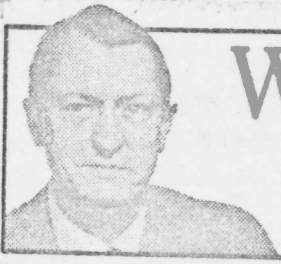
William J. Baroody, Jr., said comments from Conference participants showed "agriculture right at the top" along with the economy specifically the Administration's import and export policy as it relates to agriculture.

Baroody, who was appointed by Ford shortly after he became President to set up the "grassroots" program of White House Conferences, said he expected farm and labor groups to be among the most vocal at the meeting.

Baroody said he hopes "the Conference will restore the faith of Americans back into government," adding "while I don't want to make any broad claims, I think we've had some progress in this area."

"We still have a long way to go," Baroody said, "to get that kind of confidence in government in a lasting way."
UPI; The Tribune, Hastings, Neb., 9/30/75

Morning World Herald, Omaha, Nebraska, October 6, 1975



**Washington
Week**
By Darwin Olofson

White House Tries Media Saturation

Washington — The White House tried for almost saturation media coverage of Cabinet members and other administration participants in its domestic affairs conferences, such as the one it held in Omaha last week.

WORLD-HERALD BUREAU.

Federal officials attending the affairs are encouraged by

The News Telegraph
Atlantic, Iowa

18 White House Conference

We were fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs Wednesday in Omaha. The conference was most interesting, and we learned more about Ford administration policies in a single day than we'll probably ever learn again.

One of the interesting aspects of the conference was the security measures taken prior to the arrival of President Ford late Wednesday afternoon. From about mid-morning on, many uniformed police officers were stationed throughout the hotel main floor and mezzanine. We have no idea how many plain clothes security men were in the hotel, but there were un-



**Statehouse
Perspective**
By John Barrette

The Agricultural Showman

Whether you think Earl is a pearl or feel instead that Butz is nuts, you would be hard pressed to come up with a better show-

Omaha Visit Billed As Not Political

President Ford's road show comes to Omaha today with what is billed as the Nebraska-Iowa White House Conference.

Officially, it's a listening mission to give the President and some of his top aides a chance to hear what people are concerned about.

Sponsors -- the White House lists 16 of them -- insist that the trip is nonpartisan with no political activity of any kind scheduled.

What that means is that the cost will be picked up by the government instead of the Republican Party or Mr. Ford's reelection kitty.

Despite the label, there's no doubt the visit will create a political impact.

Twenty-one television stations and more than 300 reporters have sought accreditation to cover the day-long event.

Reporters from area newspapers, radio and television stations have been solicited to interview the three Cabinet members and two agency heads accompanying Mr. Ford.

The result will be a big campaign day in Iowa and Nebraska.

The Conference is one of a series that Mr. Ford has scheduled around the country and the series has a spin-off. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller will soon begin to conduct what are called nonpartisan domestic forums around the country.

Said the invitation to the Conference here:

"The purpose is to focus on the major issues as they affect the country and people of the Conference location and to create dialogue and a spirit of cooperation and in the hope that discussion will help government become more responsive."

No mention that Nebraska and Western Iowa have been hotbeds of support for Mr. Ford's potential Republican challenger Ronald Reagan. Des Moines Register, Des Moines, Iowa, 10/1/75

Fast, Fast, Fast Relief Not In The Ford Rx

The Ford Administration isn't prescribing any immediate cure-alls for the Nation's ailing economy because that would only keep the country on a "roller coaster ride" of economic booms followed by recessions, the President's Assistant for Economic Affairs said Wednesday.

While it may not be "politically appealing", the Administration is telling Americans that they shouldn't expect quick recovery from the recession, said L. William Seidman, luncheon speaker at the White House Conference in Omaha.

"Perhaps the most difficult thing for Americans to accept is a moderate approach. We want action now often without regard to the long-range effect."

He said attempts by past Administrations to cater to those expectations, have resulted in a "stop and go" economic policy.

"We have overreacted and then overreacted, all to the detriment of stability in economic activity," Seidman said.

This has resulted in excessive government spending, which fueled inflation.

He said economic indicators are improving. There are 1.5 million more people at work now than in March. He added the economy, however, still is "near the bottom of a very deep trough."

Seidman said the Administration chose a tax cut to stimulate the economy rather than proposing massive government programs to get the employed back to work, as past Administrations have done.

"Government spending programs don't get started until we are on the way out of trouble, and they are hard to get stopped when we don't need them anymore." Omaha World Herald,
10/2/75

Energy

Zarb: Another Oil Embargo Would Cost One Million Jobs

FEA Administrator Frank Zarb warned Wednesday that the United States has become so dependent on foreign oil that another embargo from oil-producing countries "would have a serious crippling effect on our economy."

"We have had four embargoes in the last 20 years," Zarb said. "Last year was the fourth. The first three we got by because we had sufficient supplies to take care of our needs."

"At the rate we're going another embargo in 1977 or 1978 would put one million people out of work in six months and would decrease our Gross National Product by about 40 billion dollars in that same time."

Zarb's comments came in a press conference before he spoke at the White House Conference in Omaha.

Zarb was critical of both OPEC and the Congress.

He said he was "damned outrated" over the last ten percent increase approved by OPEC because it raises about two billion dollars a year the American payment to those countries.

"From three billion dollars in 1971, the United States payment to OPEC has reached 27 billion dollars," he said.

Zarb criticized Congress for what he said was its inaction on legislation proposed by President Ford. He said the debate has begun to move in the right direction, "but we have to get some decisions made that are not political decisions."

Omaha World Herald, 10/2/75



ZARB ... laughs at question in Omaha.

Energy

Zarb Compares Nuclear Plants, TV Sets

By DON WALTON
Star Staff Writer

Omaha — Federal energy administrator Frank Zarb Wednesday said "cost efficiency and safety problems encountered in nuclear power plants do not justify a slowdown in their development.

"We are in the process of an evolving technology," Zarb said in an interview with The Star.

"The first television sets didn't operate all the time either," he said.

Disposal of nuclear wastes is "the one major technological area which needs to be

Zarb's comments, made during a private interview at the Omaha White House Conference, were solicited in the wake of the Lincoln City Council's decision Monday night not to participate in the financing or ownership of the new nuclear generation unit planned by Omaha Public Power District.

On other matters of area interest, Zarb pledged that "as long as I am in office, we will always give farmers the top priority for what they require" in the energy or energy-derivative field.

That includes access to sufficient fertilizer at reasonable cost, he said.

way from the Wyoming coal fields to an electric generation complex in Arkansas, Zarb said the administration has taken no position.

"We do, however, believe we need to find better ways to transport" western low sulfur coal, he said. "We should consider all methods of transportation."

On broader issues, Zarb said America "could at some point be jeopardizing its freedom" if it does not become energy independent in the near future. Administration proposals aim for such independence by 1985.

"If there was ever a public policy issue

would make the last one look like a picnic."

In that event, Zarb said, snapping his fingers, "one million Americans would be out of work just like that."

Americans have had "a grand Roman feast" with energy products, using them "more wastefully than any nation in the world," Zarb said.

This splurge amounted to a policy of "eating yourself to death," he said. "We were operating in a fantasy land."

And the result, he said, is that "we are losing control over our economy."

Evening World Herald, Omaha, Nebraska Oct. 2, 1975

Oil and Anger

"It makes me pretty damned mad. Mostly, it makes me angry at our inability to get strong. We have everything we need except good, old-fashioned guts."

is playing a marathon political game over formation of a coherent national energy policy.

They are witnesses to the seemingly endless debates over crucial energy-

Lincoln, Neb.
Evening Journal
Oct. 1, 1975

Coleman Won't Push Helmet Law Sanctions

Omaha — Transportation Secretary William T. Coleman Jr. Wednesday said he would not enforce federal sanctions against states that have no motorcycle helmet law.

Coleman, responding to questions at the regional White House conference on economic and domestic affairs, said;

"I don't think that the law makes much sense and I'm most reluctant to enforce it."

Nebraska, for the past few years, has been without a motorcycle helmet law and thus invited the possibility of federal sanctions, which would include loss of almost \$7 million in

Evening Journal, Lincoln, Nebraska, Oct. 3, '75

Coleman's Comment Incredible

Transportation Secretary William T.

Isn't that a wonderful state of affairs, one about which millions of American school

Train Urges Commitment to The Soil

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell Train said in Omaha the Nation's major water quality problems are agricultural runoff and sedimentation and that "the only cure for them is good farm practices."

"What we need," Train said, "is a national commitment to the soil."

It's high time we moved aggressively toward getting a national commitment to the quality and quantity of the Nation's soil," he said. AP; News Times, York, Neb., 10/1/75

Train: Tips For Better Lives

The Nation's top environmental officer gave a blueprint Wednesday of steps citizens may take to improve their surroundings.

It includes driving smaller cars, giving up throw-away beverage containers, making a commitment to protect the soil, encouraging organic farming, eliminating excessive use of pesticides, joining citizens environmental groups, and adopting an energy saving, simpler style of life.

Russell Train's view emerged from public talks and a newspaper interview as he visited Omaha.

Train said he was encouraged to see Detroit automakers finally producing cars which both get better mileage per gallon and don't contaminate the air.

He urged citizens to "press for State legislation" which require deposit on soft drinks and beer containers.

The Oregon and Vermont laws have been effective in reducing litter and saving energy, and they haven't cut into beverage sales or reduced jobs he said. "Quite the opposite, they have increased employment."

Touching on the midlands lifestyle, Train stressed that new efforts are needed to protect the soil.

Train: Tips For Better Lives (cont.)

Much water pollution stems from agricultural runoff and erosion, he said. Controls are needed on strip mining, urban storm water runoff and other conditions which pollute soil and water, he said.

Train said he's disheartened that the U.S. Department of Agriculture doesn't promote organic farming because he thinks it is one way waste can be reused, saving energy and reducing contamination of rivers and streams.

Train criticized Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz for twice inferring in Omaha that EPA's ban on some uses of DDT was related to the encephalitis outbreak in some communities.
Omaha World Herald, 10/2/75

HEW Chief Urges Look At Alternatives To Busing

The Secretary of HEW said his Department needs to put more stress on helping school districts desegregate voluntarily.

Dr. David Mathews told a press conference in Omaha that in some instances, litigation to require desegregation is necessary but "the law says our first mandate is to work with schools." During the public question period at the conference, Mathews said there seems to be confusion whether busing is an end in itself or means to the end of allowing all Americans to have a fair chance for good education.

"If you listen to the debate in the country, it seems that some people have forgotten what we were trying to do, they are hung up on means. I think we have to look at alternatives," Mathews said.

Mathews also called vocational education "an idea whose time has come." In other comments, Mathews said that: Even with increases, the amount being spent on Indian health problems is inadequate. It is necessary to get some control on the welfare system so that it is less confusing to recipients and there are more incentives to reward the working poor. HEW is trying to work out methods of enforcing the new Federal Privacy Act that will prevent misuse of data on individuals but not be so restrictive as to hinder people in getting needed services.

Mathews compared the welfare system to a greasy pig contest: "There's no place to grab it." Omaha World Herald, 10/2/75

UNO Is Still Baffled By HEW Bias Probe

The University of Nebraska at Omaha has been notified by HEW that it is being investigated for alleged classroom grading discrimination, Chancellor Ronald Roskens said Wednesday.

Roskens told HEW Secretary Mathews that he and other UNO officials are frustrated: They weren't given any specifics about who was supposedly discriminated against, when or by whom.

Our request for further information has brought no reply, he said.

Could something be done to help UNO take action to correct the problem? asked Roskens at a session of the White House Conference.

Mathews offered a one-word reply: "Can't."

He said problems with enforcing basic Federal rules on affirmative action in equal opportunity are partially caused by the fact that HEW is administering Labor Department regulations. Omaha World Herald - 10/2/75

Highways To Lose Priority Status

Secretary Coleman said in Omaha that the Transportation Department is trying to shift their policy of building only highways to one which mass transit plays an increasing role.

Speaking at a press conference, Coleman said, "Energy problems are causing not only that shift in thinking but also other changes, too.

"The automobile has been, is and will always be the form of transportation that most people will use."

"But we do have to develop habits that will make the use of the automobile much more socially responsible," the Secretary said.

Coleman also said his Department is trying to develop policies to "restore railroads to their proper place in society."

Coleman also commented on:

- A proposed railroad revitalization act.
- Proposed changes in the Highway Trust Fund.
- Flexible highway programs.

He answered a number of questions from the floor, including:

- Noise reduction equipment for airplanes.
- Motorcyclists and helmets.
- The 50 mile per hour speed limit.

Omaha World Herald, 10/2/75

The Midlands Ask and Ford Answers

Questions asked the President during the Omaha Conference centered around:

Decreasing Federal involvement in business.

Education and Federal forms.

Economics and tight money.

Women: Who were the women considered for his selection of a Vice President.

Increasing productivity.

Job opportunities for minorities.

Jobs and the agriculture agri-business occupations.

Education: Medical and dental.

Agricultural exportation: Long-term contracts.

Federal spending: Convincing Congress to cooperate in controlling.

Jobs: Employer of last resort.

Omaha World Herald, 10/2/75

Butz Tears Into Meany

AFL-CIO President George Meany in many ways is "more powerful than the President of the United States" in the opinion of Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz.

In Omaha for the White House Conference, Butz ran into criticism of President Ford's moratorium on grain exports. He criticized members of Congress elected with the support of labor.

"As long as you can send people to Congress who will jump through the hoop every time labor says jump, then you're going to have problems," he said.

Butz answered questions during a dinner sponsored by the Nebraska press association.

He was presented an appeal to permit American farmers to sell grain anywhere "without impairment of political, labor, adverse foreign policy or other peripheral matters."

The appeal came in a form of a resolution adopted during a meeting in Lincoln by members of the legislatures of Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas. AP; News -Press,
Nebraska City, Nebraska, 10/1/75

Butz Admits to Frustration

Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz discounted reports that he might resign because of differences with the State Department and the White House.

"The only truth is that I was irritated when the Administration halted further grain sales to Poland last week," Butz said in an interview and later in a press conference.

News services last week hinted that his resignation would be prompted not only by the Poland grain embargo but also by the extension of the embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union following the President's meeting with AFL-CIO President George Meany.

"Sure I argued against the Poland embargo," Butz said. "You win some and you lose some, and I think I've won my share in the past four years."

Butz said the State Department has to be "heavily involved" with any international agreement and described his disagreement with the Administration as "purely temporary."

The Secretary saw no chance for passage by Congress of legislation placing controls on farm export sales. "It may be tried, but it won't pass," Butz said. "President Ford is dead set against it."

Butz said he is opposed to having welfare programs such as the school lunch and foodstamp programs as a part of his Department's budget.

"Seventy percent of our budget next year will go for welfare," Butz said, "and frankly it's got me frightened."
Omaha World Herald, 10/2/75

Coleman: JFK Probe Vindicated

A former member of the Warren Commission said Wednesday the two recent attempts on President Ford's life tend to add credence to the finding of the Commission.

Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., who was senior consultant and assistant counsel to the Commission that investigated President Kennedy's assassination, said the attempts on Ford's life showed that it is possible for persons who are "slightly mentally deranged or frustrated" to act on his own and not in conspiracy.

Coleman said these incidents should be proof enough that "you do have some people who are sick" enough to try to kill the President.

Despite renewed interest in theories of a conspiracy in Kennedy's death, Coleman said, "I haven't seen any evidence whatsoever which would cause me to change my mind one iota about the conclusion" that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.
Omaha World Herald, 10/2/75

Media Coverage

Local, Area Media Representatives

Registered for the Conference 300

Attendance 1100

Radio: 19 Stations

Television: 12 Stations

Nebraska-Iowa -- ETV Network (Gavel to Gavel)
WOWT-TV (CBS) Feed for 21 Stations in Nebraska,
Iowa
South Dakota (Gavel to Gavel)

National Stories:

Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
AP, UPI, Christian Science Monitor
NBC (News & Today Show)
CBS
ABC
Westinghouse
Metro-Media

Evening Journal, Lincoln, Nebraska, Oct. 1, 1975

Obbink Questions NETV Programming on Ford, Carpenter

By Jack Kennedy

have been settled. That should be in about a year.

Philip Heckman, commission chairman and Doane College

sense," Hull said of Carpenter. "He's our own, whether we like

Any complaints, Heckman said, are reviewed by the staff and the program committee and


Heckman said about 60% of NETV prime time programming is local, compared to about 10%

dent was one scheduled speaker. NETV program director Ron Hull earlier had reported plans to broadcast a program on Terry Carpenter, but only after legal battles over a contested election

said.

'Debatable'

"That's very debatable, I think," the governor's secretary replied.

 Evening Journal
Lincoln, Nebraska
(Cir. D. 46,437)

be aired by the Public Broadcasting System next year, is being shot in Mystic, Conn., and Gettysburg for use by about 120 stations.

OCT 4 1975

ETV Broadcast 'Not in Conflict'

The Nebraska Educational ficial and a broadcast executive

Coverage and equipment were needed at times with the

he did not view the program as political, pointing out that it

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Omaha World-Herald

Omaha World-Herald, Saturday, September 27, 1975

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ETV Will Show Session Oct. 1

Lincoln (UPI) — The Nebraska Educational Television Network will pre-empt daytime programming Oct. 1 to broadcast coverage of the Nebraska-Iowa White House conference on domestic and economic affairs.

The conference will be in Omaha and President Ford is

Evening World Herald
Omaha, Neb., Sept. 30, 75



Monroe Co. News
Albia Iowa

SP 27-75

Telecast Ford visit to Omaha conference

13
President Gerald Ford, Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, HEW Secretary David Matthews, and Transportation Secretary William T. Coleman, Jr.

being held across the country. Other scheduled speakers include Russell Train, administrator of the Environmental Protection

at 8:30 a.m. and run to approximately 5:30 p.m. The Iowa Educational Broadcasting Network will carry highlights from 6:30 to 9 p.m. If President Gerald Ford should hold a press conference, WOVW will broadcast that event at 6:30 p.m.

The Express
Red Oak, Iowa, Sept. 29, '75

IEBN Carries Omaha Session

108
MOINES—President Gerald Ford Agriculture Sec.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of University Women
Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce
Creighton University
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Iowa Manufacturers Association
Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Association of Commerce and Industry
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Nebraska Future Farmers of America Association
Nebraska Press Association
Nebraska State AFL-CIO
Nebraska Women's Political Caucus
Teamsters Union Local No. 554
University of Nebraska
Urban League of Nebraska

PROGRAM

- 8:30 A.M. **Introductory Remarks**
Mr. John C. Kenefick, President
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
Hon. James J. Exon, Governor of Nebraska
Hon. 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. **The Environment**
Remarks/Questions and Answers
Russell E. Train
- 11:00 A.M. **Intermission**
- 11:10 A.M. **Transportation**
Remarks/Questions and Answers
William T. Coleman, Jr.
- 12:10 P.M. **Reception and Luncheon Banquet**
(Ak-Sar-Ben and Midlands Suite)
Master of Ceremonies
D. B. Varner
President, University of Nebraska
Invocation
His Excellency
The Most Reverend D. E. Sheehan, D.D.
Archbishop, Omaha Diocese
Welcoming Remarks
Hon. Edward Zorinsky, Mayor of Omaha
Address "The State of the Economy"
L. William Seidman
- 1:30 P.M. **Intermission** (Reconvene Grand Ballroom)
- 1:45 P.M. **The Economy**
Question and Answer Session
L. William Seidman
- 2:15 P.M. **The Federal Role in Education**
Remarks/Questions and Answers
David Mathews
- 3:10 P.M. **Intermission**
- 3:25 P.M. **Energy**
Remarks/Questions and Answers
Frank G. Zarb
- 4:30 P.M. **Address and Questions and Answers
by the President of the United States**

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