

The original documents are located in Box C14, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 3/5/1975 (2)” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

3/5/75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ron *(with a large handwritten flourish)*

Helpful

Encouraging

Thanks

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *dg.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

Attached are the letters, editorials, and columns which have resulted from your recent travels around the country to explain the economic and energy programs.

- TAB A Highlights
- TAB B Letters, editorials and columns from the Atlanta trip
- TAB C Letters, editorials and columns from the Houston trip
- TAB D Letters, editorials and columns from the Florida trip

A

"I think everyone came away impressed with the President's forthrightness, sincerity, and determination to do something about our energy and economics crisis. It is quite refreshing to see an administration so open and so anxious to listen to the views of a cross section of Americans."

Letter to President from J. Carrol Dadisman
Executive Editor and Vice President
Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

"I am convinced that your extraordinary efforts to communicate to the news media in this kind of forum will be productive and fruitful, and I would hope that your office would continue to use this vehicle in your future endeavors."

Letter to the President from Edward V. Cheviot
Vice President and General Manager
KMOL-TV, San Antonio

"I think the President's candor, his emphasis on the big issues, his flexibility, and his essential modesty will go far toward restoring his public support.

"Incidentally, at no time did he behave like a man running for re-election. On the contrary, he seemed absorbed in issues far more important than the next election--which might be the smartest re-election strategy he could adopt."

Column by Edward H. Harte
Editor and Publisher
Corpus Christi Caller, 2/12/75

"I was impressed with President Ford's forthrightness and low-keyed excellence in presenting his ideas to the folks at the Houston breakfast meeting. I told him there and then I was for him 1000%--and I meant it."

Letter to Gerald Warren from
Pat Taggart, Publisher
Waco News-Tribune

"The Times commends President Ford for personally taking his energy program to the people, hearing their suggestions and responding to their criticisms. He, apparently, was pleased by the Houston reaction, describing it as 'excellent and wholesome.'

"And we are in full agreement that the time for action is now."

Editorial, Shreveport Times, 2/12/75

"This information will be valuable background for editorial and news purposes."

Letter to Ron Nessen from Lee Anderson
Editor
Chattanooga News-Free Press

"President Ford ate breakfast Tuesday with 60 of the South's top news executives and offered what was later depicted as a confident, self-assured presentation of his economic and energy proposals.

"Most of the newspaper, television and radio executives who attended the 90-minute session with Ford declined to discuss the meeting with waiting reporters. But the handful who did were virtually unanimous in saying they were impressed with the President, and, to varying degrees, supportive of his proposals."

Atlanta Journal news story, 2/4/75

The President's talk after the breakfast "was a pitch for his program and an explanation of why gas rationing wouldn't work and why we had to make ourselves independent in energy. It was interesting.

"It was pleasant. He impressed the audience with his sincerity and knowledge of these subjects, with the gravity of the current crisis and the need to get behind Gerald R. Ford and help solve it.

"He came here for this last reason I suppose and he made progress. If he came to reassure us that the presidency is in sound hands once more and that the President regards himself as something less than imperial and at the outside first among equals he also made progress and should continue meeting his constituency in this fashion."

Column by Jack Spalding
Editor
The Atlanta Journal, 2/6/75

"What emerged once again in the Atlanta meeting, however, is that President Ford indeed has a specific package of economic and energy proposals; the Democratic leaders in Congress do not. . . . The Congress has a responsibility to act promptly on President Ford's proposals. It is not a time for politics as usual, and most Americans understand that. President Ford has offered leadership in a difficult time. His energy and economic proposals will be debated fully, as they should be, but it is vital that the Congress move either to adopt the President's package or come forward with an equally comprehensive set of energy and economic recommendations. "

Editorial, Atlanta Constitution, 2/5/75

"The President impressed us as being sincere and firm about the energy program he has sent to Congress. He admits he is willing to compromise to some extent with Congress but 'we will not fiddle while energy burns.' We support that program and believe the majority of the American people will support it. "

Editorial, Atlanta World, 2/6/75

"The truth remains, of course, that the President has something, a recession-inflation-energy program that is cohesive and comprehensive, if not totally acceptable in its present form. The disunited Democrats scramble around with sundry ideas--including conservation, allocation, gasoline rationing, gasoline price increases, continue regulation of natural gas prices, repeal of percentage depletion, reduction of foreign tax credits for oilmen, extension of price controls with allocation rules, ad infinitum. . . . "

Editorial, Columbia Record, 2/24/75

"President Ford was every bit the salesman, the guy with a program he believes in so strongly he apparently does not intend to yield to his opposition.

"He talked as if he knew everyone in the room personally. It came freely. There were no notes. He knew his figures, his dates and his subjects. . .

"His breakfast with the news executives hit some high spots in the nation's need to gain, through conservation and expanded domestic production of gas, oil, and coal, independence in the energy field. "

Column by Sam Wood, Editor
Austin American Statesman, 2/12/75

"The President, who talked and fielded questions immediately after the breakfast did a good sales job. . .

"You may not agree with the President's program (and I admit to serious reservations as to its inflationary effect on the economy), but you must admit to his argument that at least he HAS a program, while Congress has dilly-dallied on the matter. He's willing to compromise, and, as he told us in Houston, he is realist enough not to expect to get everything he asks."

Columns by Robert W. (Pete) Lee
Vice President and Editor
El Paso Herald Post, 2/13 and 2/14/75

"The Ford Administration has at least come up with an economic game plan. . . which is more than Congress has done. We think the President's plan should be given a chance to work, without being altered into an unrecognizable form which will give the critics a chance to say 'I told you so'."

Editorial, WRCB-TV
Chattanooga, Tennessee, 2/10/75

"It has been a pleasure to have had the President here. He certainly has left us with some better understanding of him and his programs. And we trust that he has found something worthwhile here which he cannot find in Washington--a better reading of the country."

Editorial, Houston Chronicle, 2/11/75
(Reprinted in part in The New Orleans Times-Picayune, 2/25/75)

"News executives attending the 'backgrounder' breakfast had kind words about the President's frankness and informality."

News story, Dallas Morning News, 2/12/75

"Part of the President's pitch to the public is his claim that Congress will neither back his plan of action nor produce a plan of its own. On Tuesday his claim sounded very convincing."

Editorial, The Dallas Morning News, 2/13/75

"The President impressed those with whom he conferred in Houston with his earnestness.

"His was a somber attitude which left no doubt of his understanding of the critical nature of the problem and that it is one which must be solved. He reinforced that impression with the fact of his comprehensive energy program when Congress has none. . .

"The President has laid down a challenge to Congress which it cannot ignore. The American people should demand of its Congress that it start prompt action on a bipartisan program with the President to solve our critical energy emergency."

Editorial, Dallas Times Herald, 2/13/75

"President Ford's visit to Houston can be scored as a skillful exercise in public relations and political strategy to bring pressure on Congress to act on the energy crisis--even if it does not adopt his own controversial program. . .

"The most distinct impression this editor brought away from the Houston activities was that he has made his pitch and now stands ready to compromise."

Column, Ed N. Wishcamper, Editor
Abilene Reporter News, 2/12/75

"The momentum, then, is with President Ford. His visit here, as elsewhere, has left an impression that this Chief Executive, blessedly, is a straightforward and honest man who may not have all the answers but is seeking them doggedly. Given a basis, a starting point, he can and will compromise with the Congress on the best course to pursue in a time that is increasingly perilous. And short."

Editorial, "The Visitor Has His Itinerary--Where Is Congress Headed?", The Miami Herald, 2/27/75

". . . President Ford talked at length over the breakfast with 36 heads of regional newspapers, newspaper chains and broadcasting companies. Many of the media heads later said they were impressed with his grasp of the energy and economic problems and his eagerness to hear all views. One can easily imagine these news executives going to lunch back home and bragging to their colleagues, 'and when I told the President' . . ."

Column "When Jerry Ford Seeks A Better Idea,
He Listens," Paul Healy, New York Daily News,
2/28/75

B

J. Carrol Dadisman
Executive Editor and Vice President
The Ledger-Enquirer
P.O. Box 711
Columbus, Ga. 31902

February 5, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
White House
Washington, D. C.

FEB 28 1975

Dear Ron:

Thank you again for the invitation to breakfast with the President yesterday morning.

It is a distinct honor, of course, to be in the President's company, particularly at so limited a gathering. We especially appreciate his conveying to us personally his ideas about how to deal with the great problems that confront all of us at this time.

I think everyone came away impressed with the President's forthrightness, sincerity, and determination to do something about our energy and economics crisis. It is quite refreshing to see an administration so open and so anxious to listen to the views of a cross section of Americans.

It was a pleasure to meet you and the other White House officials present. We hope you will come back to Georgia again.

Best wishes,



J. Carrol Dadisman

RECEIVED
FEB 17 1975
CENTRAL FILES

CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS

February 5, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nessen:

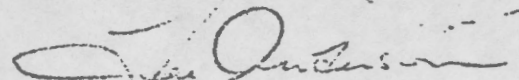
Thank you very much for the invitation to meet the President at breakfast in Atlanta Tuesday, February 4, and attend the afternoon press conference.

It was a pleasure to be your guest and to have the benefit of hearing Mr. Ford express in detail and personally his views relating to the problems of our nation today and efforts to solve them.

This information will be valuable background for editorial and news purposes.

My thanks for fine hospitality on an important occasion.

Sincerely,



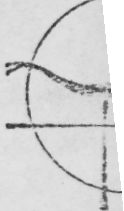
Lee Anderson
Editor

LA:fr

July

WRCB-TV 3 ^{NB}

RUST CRAFT BROADCASTING OF TENNESSEE, INC.
900 WHITEHALL ROAD, CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 37405
AREA CODE 615 267-5412



February 25, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary To The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20025

Dear Mr. Nessen:

The attached editorial which I presented February 10, 1975 on WRCB-TV was an outgrowth of the delightful breakfast with the President in Atlanta. I personally believe that President Ford is on the right track and I am disappointed in Congress. Please accept my thanks and warmest regards to President Ford.

Very truly yours,

George Stevens
General Manager

GS:ca

cc: Senator Bill Brock
Senator Howard Baker
Congresswoman Marilyn Lloyd

WRCB-TV 3 ^{NBC}

RUST CRAFT BROADCASTING OF TENNESSEE, INC.
900 WHITEHALL ROAD, CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 37405
AREA CODE 615 267-5412



Presented by George A. Stevens, General Manager.
February 10, 1975

While Congress has had a grand time lately criticizing President Ford's economic and energy proposals and suggesting alternatives of their own, they don't seem to be concerned enough to cancel their usual February recess to stay in Washington and work on the serious problems facing this country. The House is already in recess and the Senate is about to be. And some members of the Senate, our own two senators among them, are getting a head start on the recess. Senator Bill Brock is home in Chattanooga while his Finance Committee was struggling to find enough members to do business. And Senator Howard Baker is off in California campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination. Meanwhile, the President's economic proposals are getting more criticism than they probably deserve. The problem with economics is that there are as many economic theories as there are economists, which makes it difficult to pick out which programs will work and which will not. The Ford administration has at least come up with an economic game plan...which is more than Congress has done. We think the President's plan should be given a chance to work, without being altered into an unrecognizable form which will give the critics a chance to say "I told you so." I'm George Stevens, General Manager of WRCB-TV.

and

NEIGHBOR NEWSPAPERS

530 FAIRGROUND STREET P.O. BOX 449 MARIETTA, GA.

404/428-9411



STEPHEN L. McMULLAN
Editor

5 February 1975

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Nessen:

I want to personally thank you and the White House Staff for the invitation to the Tuesday morning breakfast with President Ford during his recent Atlanta visit.

It is indeed a pleasure to cover a Presidential visit, but the singular opportunity afforded editors, publishers and broadcast executives to meet with the President during the Tuesday morning breakfast was a great personal thrill to me.

I can speak only for myself, but I want you to know that I was very favorably impressed by Mr. Ford's presentation, his knowledge of our economic and energy problems, and his proposed solutions.

In addition, President Ford impressed me as a sincere and forthright man making an honest effort to move our nation forward.

You and your staff have created a mutually beneficial working relationship with the press, something we can all appreciate in light of the events of the recent past.

My very sincere thanks to you and President Ford for the consideration extended to me during your recent Atlanta visit.

Sincerely,

Steve McMullan

Bahakel Broadcasting

P O BOX 2
CHARLOTTE NORTH CAROLINA

~~CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLICATION~~

February 21, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nessen:

Please excuse the delay, but I had intended to write to you earlier to express my appreciation for your kind invitation to attend the breakfast meeting with President Ford in Atlanta on February 4th. If you would, please convey to the President my gratitude for the opportunity to hear first hand some of his thinking concerning the serious problems facing the nation.

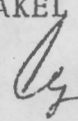
In my brief chat with the President following the breakfast, I found him to be an affable and personable gentleman.

My best wishes to you and the President as you pursue your goals in meeting the needs of our nation in these difficult times.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

BAHAKEL BROADCASTING


Cy N. Bahakel

CNB/m11

IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT

News Officials Meet Ford

By CHARLES HAYSLETT

President Ford ate breakfast Tuesday with 60 of the South's top news executives and offered what was later depicted as a confident, self-assured presentation of his economic and energy proposals.

Most of the newspaper, television and radio executives who attended the 90-minute session with Ford declined to discuss the meeting with waiting reporters. But the handful who did were virtually unanimous in saying they were impressed with the President, and, to varying degrees, supportive of his proposals.

The breakfast session at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta with the media executives followed Ford's 5 p.m. speech Monday to the White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs and his meeting later in the evening with eight southern governors.

"He (Ford) was in a very serious mood," said Carroll Dadisman, executive editor of the Columbus Ledger and Inquirer. "There was not much laughter in the room..."

"He was very forceful and had a rationale for what he is trying to do," Dadisman said.

"Let us just say that the President was very impressive," said William H. Fields, executive editor and vice president of The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution. Fields went on to say that Ford's energy proposals were particularly impressive, and indicated that he agreed with most of that package.

According to several of the media executives, the President asked at the outset of the breakfast session that his remarks be taken off the record.

Cliff Kirkland, president of Cox Broadcasting, termed the breakfast a "most informative, informal affair" and said he was convinced that the President "totally understands" the economic and energy problems facing the country.

Paul Raymond, vice president and general manager of WAGA-TV here in Atlanta, told newsmen he was particularly impressed with the President's "tremendous knowledge and self-assurance."

A presidential spokesman told reporters that Ford had first addressed the news executives, taken a few questions and then spent some time talking with them individually.

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL
2/6/75

The President Visits Atlanta



JACK
SPALDING

WHEN PRESIDENT Ford was in Atlanta a lot of people saw him and listened to him. He looks fine and he sounds good.

He addressed two meetings, dined with a group of southern governors, held a press conference and had breakfast with around 60 newspaper, radio and television people.

These were good moves as there has been a division between the people and the government and particularly the White House. The visit helped close it. The President is friendly and well-disposed. He radiates good will. He is patient and tolerant of questions and questioners who may be irrelevant. He gives full attention to whoever is talking at or with him. He

is as packed with facts as a computer. He gives an impression of solidity and competence. Here's a man who isn't going to panic. Here is a man without guile.

This last is particularly reassuring. The White House has been remote and Byzantine. This President glows with trustworthiness. Some more appearances on this order and he is going to have things going better for him.

He is solid looking physically. Judging by his schedule he has plenty of stamina.

Breakfast was in the Tudor Room at the Hyatt Regency. What does a president serve for breakfast when he is on the road? On a buffet, with four ice sculptures mounted above, were

orange, tomato and prune juice and coffee. On the buffet table were paper napkins with the great seal of the United States. The rest of the menu was fruit (strawberries, papaya slices, kiwis, pineapple, etc.) in baskets carved from honey dew melon.

Next were eggs benedict, rolls and biscuits and more coffee. There were cigarettes on the tables and paper match books stamped with the great seal on one side and Gerald R. Ford on the other. The President arrived, shook hands and sat. He talked a lot with Cliff Kirtland of Cox Broadcasting on his right and C. A. Scott of the Atlanta World on his left.

After breakfast he talked off the record but said little or nothing he hadn't covered in public statements.

It really was a pitch for his program and an explanation of why gas rationing wouldn't work and why we had to make ourselves independent in energy. It was interesting.

It was pleasant. He impressed the audience with his sincerity and knowledge of these subjects, with the gravity of the current crisis and the need to get behind Gerald R. Ford and help solve it.

He came here for this last reason I suppose and he made progress. If he came to reassure us that the presidency is in sound hands once more and that the President regards himself as something less than imperial and of the outside first among equals, he also made progress and should continue meeting his constituency in this fashion.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

For 106 Years the South's Standard Newspaper

James M. Cox, Chairman 1950-1957—James M. Cox Jr., Chairman 1957-1974

JACK TARVER, President



REG MURPHY, Editor

PAGE 4-A, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1975

Ford vs. Congress

All right then. President Ford's top guns in energy and economic decision making have come to Atlanta and gone, making their pitch for President Ford's new economic package. President Ford himself was among those speaking to the White House economic conference in Atlanta, the first of no doubt many efforts in the near future to build general public support for White House solutions for the troubled economy.

President Ford called his budget and economic report "the plain truth," and said that the gloomy figures are honest and conservative and suggested that, just maybe, the economy can do better than the grim forecast. The figures are grim indeed: still better than 11 per cent inflation this year, unemployment likely to go well over eight per cent this year and remaining near that high even in 1976, the incredible prospect of 50 billion dollar deficit this coming year and the year after.

The budget deficit figures are especially disturbing, because in the end the United States Congress is likely to force them even higher than President Ford now projects. For instance, Ford's budget calls for a \$52 billion deficit in the next fiscal year. Yet this assumes that Congress is willing to go along with \$17 billion in reductions proposed by the President. The new chairman of the influential House Ways and Means Committee, for one, has already declared his opposition to many of those reductions.

The U.S. Congress has in recent years proven much more ready to begin new programs than ever to end one. Its members are not very good at budget restraint. Assume the worst. If Congress failed to go along with the President's budget reductions and added, as many members of Congress will want to do, even a few pet

projects to the budget, we could easily be talking about a \$70 to \$80 billion federal budget deficit next year. A deficit on anything approaching such a scale would almost surely send inflation rates soaring once again, just as the economy might hopefully be showing some sign of stability.

What emerged once again in the Atlanta meeting, however, is that President Ford indeed has a specific package of economic and energy proposals; the Democratic leaders in Congress do not.

There are some reasonable arguments about the way a new oil import tax should be handled. But surely the President is on the right track to take firm and immediate action to try to reduce our dependence on such imported oil. And, surely the method of trying to cut back such dependence through higher prices is preferable to the bureaucratic nightmare that a national gas rationing system would create.

The same can be said about the President's proposed tax rebate. There may be reasonable argument about exactly how big a rebate there should be, how it is handled. But there is a growing consensus that such stimulation of the economy is badly needed in the near term.

The Congress has a responsibility to act promptly on President Ford's proposals. It is not a time for politics as usual, and most Americans understand that. President Ford has offered leadership in a difficult time. His energy and economic proposals will be debated fully, as they should be, but it is vital that the Congress move either to adopt the President's package or come forward with an equally comprehensive set of energy and economic recommendations.

The Atlanta Journal

Covers Dixie Like the Dew

Since 1883

James M. Cox, Chairman 1939-1957—James M. Cox Jr., Chairman 1957-1974

Jack Tarver, President

• Jack Spalding, Editor

2-A

FEBRUARY 8, 1975

A Man of Balance

EDWARD LEVI'S testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee showed the kind of moderation and discretion appropriate to the office of U.S. attorney general.

It is gratifying that the Senate subsequently gave him an overwhelming vote of confirmation.

At a time when the oil industry is under attack, he refused to commit himself in advance to take antitrust action against the industry. He said no industry should be immune from investigation, but he would first have to take a "very careful look at the facts" before acting against any particular industry.

While other people are entitled to their opinions, the truth is that the question of antitrust violation is one of the law and the facts, and the person who has the power that an attorney general has should be guided by law and fact rather than by personal opinion.

In a matter more properly involv-

ing personal opinion, Levi said he believes the death penalty can be an effective deterrent for a limited number of crimes but providing it for too many crimes would make it unenforceable. This is a balanced view falling between total opposition to the death penalty and belief that we should go back to the days of hanging pickpockets.

Levi also said there was no justification for the FBI collecting data on congressmen or private citizens except in connection with investigations involving specific criminal charges or appointment to federal office. Thus, mixing politics with law enforcement is not his style.

Precisely because of these balanced views, Levi has been subject to criticism from both left and right extremes. But also because of them it is apparent that even if you disagree with him, he will make an attorney general with whom it will be safe to disagree. And that is a primary qualification for the job.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

For 106 Years the South's Standard Newspaper

James M. Cox, Chairman 1950-1957—James M. Cox Jr., Chairman 1957-1974

JACK TARVER, President



REG MURPHY, Editor

PAGE 4-A, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1975

A Bad, Bad Bill

Some members of Congress, mainly liberal Democrats, are trying their best to push the United States into a socialist state.

There's a bill now in Congress that would take a big step in that direction. It's H.R. 212, entitled the "Lower Interest Rate Act of 1975."

That's an appealing title. But it's deceptive, as are all roads of temptation. Its results would be disastrous.

Treasury Secretary William Simon describes this measure bluntly as a bill to establish "a national credit-police state." Arthur F. Burns, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, is strongly opposed to the bill. And Burns is one of the handful of high government officials who have any idea about what's really wrong with the American economy.

For sure, H.R. 212 would do nothing to cure the basic disease—inflation—of our economic system. It would just make it grow faster than ever, like the cancer it is.

The bill, being pushed by Rep. Henry Reuss, the new chairman of House Banking and Currency, would do two basic things:

—It would require the Federal Reserve System to maintain an increase in the money supply of no less than 6 per cent a year, no matter what the economic conditions in the nation.

—The Fed would be required to establish a system of "credit priorities" for banks to follow in making loans—in other words, a system of public credit allocation to replace the current system of private credit allocation.

The second requirement is the most immediately dangerous part of the bill. It would require that loans no longer be made on judgment of a borrower's integrity or his ability to pay, but whether the borrower qualified as a "national priority" on the master list sent down from Washington.

Under this bill, every loan made, whether for a new car, or the building of a home, or the expansion of a plant, would be subject to the priority list. The Fed would have to determine whether it was "essential" or "non-essential" to our complex society. It is just too much and Burns says the Fed doesn't want such "enormous, virtually dictatorial power."

Proponents say social desirability should be a major criteria in granting credit, and it should to a degree. But the idea that the federal government should decide what that desirability is—as our British cousins would say—is tommyrot. And they can tell you too what a mess Big Government socialism is. Already, our Big Government has made a big enough mess of our economy without dictating credit also.

As for the idea of requiring the Fed to maintain a constant money-supply growth of 6 per cent, that's ridiculous too. In times of recession, it would be okay. But in times of expansion, it would add explosive fuel to the flames of inflation which would be intolerable.

Inflation, if not brought under reasonable control is what's going to bury us. Not the Commies.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

For 106 Years the South's Standard Newspaper

James M. Cox, Chairman 1950-1957—James M. Cox Jr., Chairman 1957-1974

JACK TARVER, President



REG MURPHY, Editor

PAGE 4-A, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1975

A Good Vote

Praise the powers of good common-sense thinking, to say nothing about good economic thinking! The U.S. House Banking Committee has rejected a bill which would have ordered the Federal Reserve Board to lower interest rates.

And even better than that, it appears that its chief sponsor has given up, at least temporarily, on a bill which would have directed the Fed to establish rules for banks to follow in allocating loans and credit.

Congress has made so many mistakes in the past with its excessive spending and economic programs that it's almost too good to believe that it's showing such good sense now.

If there is one thing that the United States doesn't need, it's Congress trying to control what the money rates and credit rules are going to be in the nation. The economy is in a big enough mess without that.

Rep. Henry Reuss, the new chairman of the House Banking Committee, had originally introduced a bill proposing to force down interest rates by requiring the Federal Reserve to maintain a mandated growth in the nation's money supply and to force it and the Ford administration to allocate credit to housing and other "public priority" needs.

But the committee voted down the

interest-rate portion and adopted instead a "sense of the Congress" resolution saying the Fed should endeavor to lower rates. Reuss withdrew credit allocation from the bill because of stiff opposition and said he would instead work out a "voluntary affirmative action program" with the Federal Reserve.

The credit allocation is the scariest of the two ideas of Congress trying to control both money rates and credit allocation. If public credit allocation was adopted, it would mean that every private loan made would have to be based on a master list of "public needs" from Washington. Talk about moving toward a socialist state!

Money rates and credit flow are based on the basic free-enterprise economic law of supply and demand. They need some public direction, but it should be done by the professionals of the Federal Reserve System, not the politicians and demagogues of Congress.

The danger isn't completely over yet, however. Similar interest-rate and credit bills are being pushed in the Senate by Sens. William Proxmire and Hubert Humphrey. But for senators with even one high-school course in economics, the fact that Proxmire and Humphrey are supporting the ideas should be enough to kill them.

REG MURPHY

Sunday, February 9, 1975

The Atlanta Journal and CONSTITUTION

The Presidential Race Has Changed

DEMOCRATIC CHANCES of winning the White House appeared to improve dramatically this week, even while President Gerald Ford was in Atlanta selling his program

The Democratic nomination became much more valuable because Ford

Reg Murphy's column appears daily in The Atlanta Constitution.

and his advisers admitted they don't know how to solve the unemployment and inflation problems before election day.

If the economy still lags next year, Ford is not likely to run. A White House source said the economy is one of only two eventualities that could keep him out of the 1976 race. (The other: An unexpected turn for the worse in Mrs. Betty Ford's physical condition.)

Ford's own projections are that unemployment will remain close to 6 per cent in 1976. The cost of living would go up 7.8 per cent next year. Government debt would jump by \$52 billion or more.

Stunning or startling. Stunning if one believed the stock market was pointing toward recovery of the broader economy this fall. Startling if one assumed the President and his advisers knew a quick way out of this mess.

All this took the Democrats by surprise. Most have been saying, "The President would be hard to beat if the economy improves." Now they must say, "Even the President doesn't think the economy is going to improve rapidly."

And so the Democratic nomination looks very much more valuable. It may be a year to unseat a sitting

President, after all, they have concluded.

It was not just Democrats who saw the potential, either. Some younger Republicans also saw that Ford is not guaranteed the nomination. He might even find himself tramping the snows of New Hampshire and the retirement villages of Florida like the other candidates just to win the nomination on his own.

Tennessee Sen. Howard Baker said to Ford, "We'll be seeing a lot of each other in New Hampshire next year." Baker cannot lean any closer to the race without his hat toppling over into the ring.

Who would follow Baker into the primary? If Ford chose not to run, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller certainly would renew his eternal quest for the nomination. Sen. Charles Percy of Illinois probably would run. Gov. Ronald Reagan of California

might forget all the disclaimers and start out again.

These developments all come from a budget that is bad news. Usually, budgets don't spell trouble for the incumbents. They are so complicated that the voter cannot follow the arguments. But Ford has been unusually straightforward here. He has said there are hard times ahead, and he has made a budget which reflects it.

Whether voters will respect that strategy—the Nixonians would have called it "the hang-out route"—or laugh at it remains to be seen. It is clear they won't like what it says about their future, whether they respect it or not.

In Washington people are saying that the presidential election has become a very uncertain thing. And it all came out of the most obscure difficult government document imaginable.

Pat Furgurson

Ford In Atlanta

ATLANTA — Wherever you are in this country, any time this month, that visitor who looks so much like Gerry Ford is quite likely to be none other.

To start his sales campaign for his economic-energy program, the President happened to choose the section that is hurting worst. He arrived just as the Federal Reserve System reported that the recession in the Southeast is more serious than in any other region, and probably will take longer to ease up.

He came the very day the Harris poll disclosed that 60 per. cent of Americans nationwide gave him a negative job rating.

And there is no certified evidence that he convinced anybody important of the wisdom of any of the specific moves he is proposing.

Yet his trip south was an indisputable success, both for his personal image and the complicated package he is peddling.

Seeing that, he is heading next for Houston, the oil capital, where his program is more popular than in the gas-drinking rest of the nation. Other way-stops follow.

In barely 24 hours in Atlanta, the President achieved two objectives:

1—He enlisted the region's governors and a sampling of Southern press executives in his effort to throw the onus onto Congress for further prolongation of recession-inflation.



Although he was pointing until lately in the opposite direction, and the full outlines of his program were sent to the Capitol only last week, he told them that now he had done his part, and it is up to Congress to act. And that is exactly what his audiences were saying after he had dinner with one group and breakfast with the other.

2—He won unbroken praise here for the simple exercise of coming to talk with these groups. In this respect, although it has been six months since he took over, he still is profiting from the mere fact of not being Nixon.

More than Southern hospitality was operating when the President's private dinner with the governors broke up nearly two hours later than scheduled.

Reubin Askew, the lanky, serious, progressive Democrat from Florida, said the session had been "very productive . . . a very free discussion . . . I just am very happy that we were given the opportunity."

William Waller, the moon-faced conservative from Mississippi, thought the President had made "a great overture of statesmanship, and exhibited camaraderie." James Holshouser, the Jaycee-style Republican from North Carolina, defended the President in the face of the poll showings.

And George Wallace himself roiled in in his wheelchair, way past his normal bedtime, to tell reporters that Mr. Ford's session was "sort of history as far as I'm concerned."

Only when prodded a bit did each of them admit that he failed to see precisely eye-to-eye with Mr. Ford on every point in his program. Holshouser summed up its principal asset when he said, "It's a program. It is not a piecemeal set of ideas thrown together."

And Askew and Wallace, politically at the relative poles of the governors' group, were the ones who worded their challenge to Congress most strongly. "The President was emphatic . . . that his program to Congress could be amended, could be changed, could be added to and could be taken away from," said the Floridian. "I think the gauntlet has been laid before Congress."

That is exactly where it lies, and will until some leadership is exerted at the Capitol. As the governors kept saying, it is up to Congress now either to pass Mr. Ford's proposals or pass some of its own. And that is what the President is going to keep telling the people, in Houston and points beyond.

A Significant Conference

President Ford came to Atlanta Monday and brought with him at least a dozen members of his administration including cabinet members and staff members. A speech by him highlighted the conference on Domestic and Economic affairs at the Hyatt Regency sponsored by the White House and 15 local organizations.

The organizations included the Atlanta NAACP, Atlanta Urban League, Atlanta Business League, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Atlanta Community Relations Council, the Georgia Press Association and others.

In his speech to the conference, he said at one time inflation was the number one problem but now the energy crisis must be given priority. He said it will take about 10 years before we could be independent of foreign oil; that we must reduce our oil consumption about 1 million barrels a day. We are now using 17 million barrels a day.

Tackling the real problem of how to achieve his program of oil reduction, the President made it clear that he and his economic advisors have decided that the increased price of oil and gas is a better way to effect a reduction in use than in the rationing method. Under rationing the affluent and wealthy could have the advantage over the low income citizens. Rationing would require another costly bureau; invite black marketing, etc.

Under the price increase plan, energy taxes would produce about 30 billion of which 19 billion would go back to individuals of low income. The government would make the rebate estimated about \$80 in two payments of \$40.

The increased price payment will make all of us more conscious of the need to conserve, where as the rationing method will make the affluent start figuring how to get more gas.

The President impressed us as being sincere and firm about the energy program he has sent to Congress. He admits he is willing to compromise to some extent with Congress but "we will not fiddle while energy burns."

We support that program and believe the majority of the American people will support it.

The President's plan provides for the automobile manufacturers to come up with cars that will consume less gas.

Frank G. Zarb, administrator of the Federal Energy Administration, on this and a previous occasion in Washington, gave a rather convincing explanation on the President's energy plan.

He said: "Individuals will receive a cash refund equal to 12 percent of their 1974 tax return now being filed, up to a limit of \$1,000. Married couples filing separately would receive a maximum refund of \$500 each. For example, a family of four with a gross income of \$7,000 will pay a 1974 tax of \$402 and get a rebate of \$48, a 12 percent tax saving."

In brief, the President wants an immediate reduction in oil and gas use; an increase in the tax on oil and gas, and he wants a share of the tax increase returned to the low-income users of gas. Also, he wants a reduction in federal spending. This will hurt some of the low-income citizens but we realize a \$52 billion deficit must not be increased.

We hope the federal government will adopt a plan whereby more low-income citizens can earn their own living and thereby reduce federal spending and problems of the Inner City. We will write more about this subject in a future issue.

More On Economics, Energy

Two important groups met here this week to confer about the economic and energy crisis. The White House and 15 local organizations sponsored a one-day affair on economics and energy. President Ford honored the city with his participation in the conference. He made a favorable impression and we believe the people will support his program which is the soundest one we have heard about.

The cabinet members and aides he brought with him also did a good job in facing the facts in the situation.

It behooves all of us to give the President's plan a trial and we should warn the members of Congress not to go too far in playing politics with our economic lives.

A few blocks away, the Rev. Leon Sullivan and about 200 members of his Opportunities Industrialization Centers were in a four-day session. This group is mainly concerned with giving underprivileged persons some skills to fit them for existing jobs.

This organization is not only interested in skilled jobs in the city, but, according to Rev. Sullivan, he is also interested in getting "rid of the blight in rural America."

Rev. Sullivan emphasized the importance of self-help. He said:

"The only real answer to the energy crisis in America today is self reliance. We must discipline ourselves to self reliance until there are better times. This is what the President is asking for: self reliance and cooperation with volunteer controls, until the nation can increase its own energy supplies."

We also share this view. We propose that idle farm land be purchased by the government as it is offered for sale after the government completely ends its land support program.

This land in turn would be sold to families who would move on it and greatly increase the food supply. This program would also decrease pressure on the cities and reduce inflation.

Both conferences were constructive and we commend the sponsors.

The Birmingham News

Clarence B. Hanson, Jr., *Publisher*

Victor H. Hanson, II,
Vice President, General Manager

Vincent Townsend,
Vice President, Assistant to Publisher

John W. Bloomer,
Managing Editor

James R. McAduffy, Jr.,
Editorial Page Editor

Victor H. Hanson, *Publisher 1910-1945*

Tuesday February 11, 1975

Schlesinger's Warning

In a recent interview, Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger warned Congress to take notice of Russia's growing military strength and to pass the \$93 billion defense budget for 1976.

"Since fiscal 1968," Schlesinger said, "the real size of the Defense Department has been cut by 42 per cent—partly through congressional cuts and to a larger extent by inflation.

"The Soviets during this period that we have shrunk by 42 per cent, have been adding in real terms to their budgets by 3,4,5 per cent. . . I am not concerned particularly about the balance today. It is the trend in the defense budget which will inevitably lead to Soviet preponderance in the Eastern Hemisphere if they (budget cuts) continue."

At some point the relative shrinking of the U.S. Defense Department must

be stopped. The security of this country demands that it happen now.

A strong military force is a little like a pair of crutches. You don't need it until you have to have it, then nothing else will do.

In an era of sophisticated technology, a lag in relative military strength will not be easily overcome if hostilities break out. This nation, through its own weakness, invited attack before World War II. When the attack came, it took an all-out mobilization of the economy to come from behind and ultimately win the war. The increasing sophistication of today's weapons makes the success of a similar catch-up effort unlikely ever again.

Despite detente, the Soviet Union continues to turn out tanks, missiles and fighting ships with no let-up in sight.

Why would Russia be building these armaments if she does not intend to use them, given a favorable opportunity for victory?

The only way that this country can be sure of its own security is to keep its defenses on a parity with the offensive capabilities of the Soviet Union. To do less is to leave the survival of this country up to chance.

Congress should heed Schlesinger's warning. In a showdown, we can only depend upon our own military forces. It is imperative that we maintain our strength on a level comparable to that of the Soviet Union.



Schlesinger . . . Prudence

Any Vandenberg's Left?

In his recent speech about the troublesome relationship between Congress and the White House over the direction of foreign affairs, President Ford recalled the senior senator from Michigan at the time Mr. Ford took his oath as a congressman in 1949.

The senator was Arthur Vandenberg. He was concerned about the future of foreign policy under what he, according to Mr. Ford, called "nonpartisanship."

Mr. Ford quoted Vandenberg, referring to President Truman: "He is the only President we shall have and this is the only Congress we shall have during the next critical two years; the quicker we reach a working relationship so that we can have a united policy, the safer our country will be..."

Those words are admirably appropriate for the very, very serious problem the nation has in its lack of unity in formulating foreign policy.

Certainly Congress has considerable responsibility for foreign policy; but the nation's interests suffer when Con-

gress acts so unheedingly of the true national interest in passing legislation affecting foreign policy.

Mr. Ford cited three examples of how Congress has torpedoed the Executive in passing counterproductive legislation.

- The termination of aid to Turkey, which broke down renewed negotiations to settle the Cyprus situation.

- The amendment to the 1974 Trade Reform Act which tried to influence domestic policy of the Soviet Union, causing the Kremlin to reject the trade agreement.

- The amendment to the Trade Reform Act which withheld tariff preferences from all OPEC members—including those which did not participate in the oil embargo of last winter.

In the latter action of Congress, this newspaper endorsed the imposition of a form of retribution upon such OPEC members as Venezuela who are raking in huge profits from oil. But it seems clear now that the country loses more than it gains by such hot-tempered acts.

Mr. Ford is right. The long-run interests of the country must be given higher priority than the tempting short-run act of coercion or retribution.

Making U.S. foreign policy is a complicated process requiring unity of purpose between the legislative and executive branches.

Mr. Ford's appeal for present-day Vandenberg's in the 94th Congress should not go unheeded. The nation is in a critical period in foreign policy, and only the President can execute foreign policy. Congress must display a greater appreciation than it has recently for the broad range of policy objectives.



Vandenberg . . . Catalyst

Bipartisanship in foreign policy must

Popular-Unpopular Choice

You can safely wager that whatever President Ford lost to the Democrats in Congress in his nomination of Carla Anderson Hills as secretary of Housing and Urban Development, he won it back a million-fold from women across this broad land of ours.

Mrs. Hills, 41, at present is an assistant attorney general who heads up the Justice Department's Civil Division.

The opposition to Mrs. Hills probably was best summed up by Sen. William Proxmire's reaction: "The real stumbling block remains" her total lack of experience in housing.

If that is the only stumbling block Mrs. Hills faces, it ought to be one that can be overcome in the Congress if women from over the nation will just remind their representatives that Mrs. Hills would not be the first by a long, long shot to serve in a cabinet post without previous experience.

If Mrs. Hills has the executive and administrative ability she is reputed to have, a lack of experience in HUD-related affairs could actually be in her

favor. She would come to her job without prejudices many career people have difficulty dealing with when raised to top administrative positions which call for giving an unbiased examination of all facets of an issue.

Undoubtedly in her favor also is that she would owe no favors to any pressure groups or associations or to professional lobbyists.

If confirmed, and the chances are good if women speak their piece in her support, Mrs. Hills will be only the third woman to hold a cabinet post in the nation's 200-year history.

Both Frances Perkins, secretary of labor from 1933 to 1945, and Oveta Culp Hobby, secretary of health and welfare from 1953 to 1955, had commendable records.

Given the support of her department, Mrs. Hills should do as well.

Whatever the outcome of the nomination, President Ford certainly did himself no harm politically in naming this attractive mother of four children and active career lawyer.

The Birmingham News

Clarence B. Hanson, Jr., *Publisher*

Victor H. Hanson, II,
Vice President, General Manager

Vincent Townsend,
Vice President, Assistant to Publisher

John W. Bloomer,
Managing Editor

James R. McAdory, Jr.,
Editorial Page Editor

Victor H. Hanson, *Publisher 1910-1945*

Thursday February 20, 1975

Impoundment Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the impoundment issue comes too late to be much of a surprise; but it is important nevertheless. The decision held that former President Richard Nixon exceeded his authority in holding back some \$9 billion in pollution control funds.

It is not important that Richard Nixon was President or that the funds were for pollution or that the figure came to \$9 billion.

What is important is that the Supreme Court has, with finality, supported lower court rulings that the executive branch has no authority to curb the spendthrift ways of Congress.

It is futile to lament that the judicial and the legislative branches have ganged up on the executive branch and deprived it of a power which presidents have exercised since George Washington. The doctrine of congressional fiscal supremacy now is a fait accompli. In this respect, the presidency stands irrevocably diminished.

Thus, the people have no protection from the profligate spending of Congress except to elect better congressmen. Better meaning more fiscally responsible. Less inclined to throw money at problems. Skeptical that we can spend ourselves into prosperity.

Unfortunately, the prospects of a fiscally responsible Congress appear at the present about as real as unicorns. Those we have now in Congress seem

bent on making the Congress Nixon faced look like the soul of frugality.

Mr. Nixon tried to hold federal spending down by holding budget items to sizeable increases. But always Congress characterized him as a piker and upped the ante by billions. "We'll match your increase and double the pot," Congress would say in daring generosity with the public purse. Congress always won.

Of course Congress follows the people and the people apparently want the money spent.

The President of the United States, however, is in a position of leadership. Mr. Nixon heard the clamor for money, but he tried to hold the lid on spending because he knew federal red ink contributes directly to inflation.

Mr. Ford is also concerned about the danger of inflation. He also wants to hold unnecessary spending down. Although he—just as Mr. Nixon did—has at times bowed to the clamor to spend for this and that and for the sake of spending in general, he nevertheless represents a restraining influence on Congress.

Impoundment was one of the tools available to the president to use in tightening the federal money spigot at least somewhat. Now that tool is gone, taken away by the courts. The veto remains. Let us hope that Mr. Ford will use it unhesitatingly to check the free-spending impulses of Congress whenever possible.

RECORD'S EDITORIALS

Promises, Promises

The honest Democrat, assessing the Senate's successful blockage of President Ford's \$3-per barrel tax on imported oil, said: "Well, we've got 90 days to come up with some kind of energy program." Whether the Democrats do have, indeed, the 90 days depends upon their mustering sufficient votes to override a certain veto by Mr. Ford.

The truth remains, of course, that the President has something, a recession-inflation-energy program that is cohesive and comprehensive, if not totally acceptable in its present form. The disunited Democrats scramble around with sundry ideas — including conservation, allocation, gasoline rationing, gasoline price increases, continued regulation of natural gas prices, repeal of percentage depletion, reduction of foreign tax credits for oilmen, extension of price controls with allocation rules, ad infinitum.

The nation's governors are even less united in their diverse approaches to resolution of the energy crunch. They agreed that they weren't especially fond of the President's imported oil tax, but all they could agree on was that everyone should cooperate to conserve energy. Conservation alone, friends, wasn't enough and won't be enough.

Our consumption of petroleum has grown historically at 4.2 per cent a year. If conservation worked at its best, consumption might be halved to

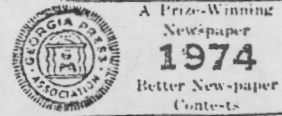
a 2.1 per cent annual growth. That still leaves a fabulous gap in American production from 1974 proved reserves and would make us ever more dependent on imports.

In short, if consumption were slowed to 2.1 per cent growth, we'd still need nearly 21 million barrels of oil a day in a decade. That's four million barrels a day more than we used in 1974. And the gap between consumption and production from presently proved reserves (including the Alaskan North Slope) would be about 15 million barrels a day by 1984.

Sure, we must cut out waste. The President, the Congress, the governors and the people at least agree on that. At the same time, Congress must develop a short-term, intermediate, and long-term program for energy development of our own or our dependence on foreign oil will worsen.

Mr. Ford is quite willing to compromise and has already indicated that he'll tilt toward higher gasoline prices (about 14 cents per gallon) and smaller increases in heating oil (6 to 7 cents) to save his imported oil tax program. The alternatives for the Democratic Congress, if it is serious about energy, aren't many. The Congress may have 90 days to make up its collective mind. Right now, there is a "promising" Democratic plan; but nobody's sure what the plan is or what it "promises."

The South's Oldest —
Established 1785
An Independent Newspaper



"The history of liberty is a history of limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it. When we resist, therefore, the concentration of power, we are resisting the process of death, because concentration of power is what always precedes the destruction of human liberties."

Woodrow Wilson

Page 4-A Thursday, February 6, 1975

Double standard

We agree with President Ford's advice to state and local governments, given Monday in Atlanta, that they not "act irresponsibly and then come to the federal government for more funds over and above what has been recommended in the (federal) budget . . . If they have financial problems, I think they have to face up to them. I believe they will have to tighten their belts . . ."

The only trouble is that such advice comes from the Chief Executive of the federal government, and if any government has ever violated the good counsel which the President hands out to states and local governments, it is by all odds the national government in Washington.

★ ★ ★

This is not to place the burden for big spending on Mr. Ford, or on any other President. The appropriations are made in the Congress, and that body has 100 per cent responsibility for the level of spending, taxes and debts. If we had a Congress whose majority had wisdom, judgment and backbone, we would not have fallen into the present bottomless pit of inflation-breeding national debt.

Nevertheless, Mr. Ford has sent to the Congress a budget which he suggests be passed. It's a high record peacetime budget of \$349 billion, involving a \$52 billion deficit. White House leadership could, in some aspects of the year's financial deci-

sions, mean the difference between fiscal restraint or lack of it.

Of course, President Ford may have been right when he said in Atlanta that "the economic situation in 1976 will be an improving economic picture." We hope he is right, and that an upswing in the economy produces more federal revenue and makes necessary less expenditure in unemployment insurance, and fewer other demands on anti-recession funds. His viewpoint is not necessarily at odds with that of the three-man Council of Economic Advisers, which on the same day said the economy faces a steep decline the first three months of this year. The Council's forecast is short-range, and the President's is long-range.

★ ★ ★

Regardless, however, of the duration of tight economic conditions, a budget and a deficit on the scale the White House recommends would be, in our opinion, inflationary. If, as we fear, the Congress makes a cut in the defense appropriation and then adds on still more domestic giveaways that will run up a still higher deficit, the inflationary effect will be just that much greater.

How badly do the people of America have to be hurt economically before they rise up as one person and elect a Congress dedicated to not merely economical talk, but economical voting?

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

A Scripps-Howard Newspaper

GORDON HANNA, Editor

Published by The Memphis Publishing Co., 495 Union, Memphis, Tenn. 38101

JOSEPH R. WILLIAMS, Business Manager

Consolidated July 1, 1894

{ The Memphis Commercial..... Established 1889
The Appeal..... Established 1840
The Avalanche..... Established 1867

Page 6

Friday, February 14, 1975

The Roads To Prosperity

PRESIDENT FORD'S announcement that he is releasing \$2 billion of the federal highway funds which he and former President Nixon had impounded is being greeted with enthusiasm.

And the prospect of release of still more of the \$11 billion which had been withheld is adding to the happiness of state officials and road builders, as indeed it should.

These sums will be a considerable help to the economy. A Department of Transportation official says the money can be translated directly into 125,000 jobs for construction workers and their suppliers, and that would develop purchasing power which in turn could create another 100,000 jobs.

This money, of course, is not going to drop onto the economy in one big bucketful. It takes several years to get a highway — especially an interstate highway — from plan to completion. So the cash actually will be dispersed over that longer period as the work progresses.

But, of course, the very fact that the money is committed will have a stimulating effect upon the economy. It will give businessmen assurance that there will be that much more money to be spent wherever the roads are being built and it will give workers assurance they will have income for a considerable period ahead so they can buy household appliances, automobiles or whatever else they and their families need but may have been doing without.

THE PRESIDENT has recognized that he might be subject to some criticism for advocating more highways at the very time he is demanding that the nation conserve such energy resources as petroleum.

"It seems to me there's no

inconsistency in doing this at the same time we're trying to conserve fuel, because better highways save fuel," he told a news conference after the announcement of the release of the \$2 billion.

THIS APPROACH, of course, will put a strain on some states, for state governments are required to put up some matching funds to get the federal money, albeit the smallest fraction of the total.

States which have trimmed their own roadbuilding funds in conformity with the impounding philosophy of the federal government may find themselves penalized now for their concern about inflation.

But all states have some money available for highways, and those which have been farsighted enough to have plans ready for just this sort of emergency will be rewarded for their foresight.

ONE ASPECT of the President's announcement which received little attention was the fact that the funds he is releasing also can be used for some urban mass transit projects.

That is another reply to those who object to stimulation of motor traffic by the expansion of the highway program.

If yet more funds are to be made available for emergency projects by the federal government, it might be a good thing if the White House gave serious consideration to the possibility of creating high-speed rail alternatives to the interstate highway system. The great sums which are being spent on the fast deteriorating existing railway system of the nation indicate that such an alternative would be a good investment for the nation now and in the future.

Editorial

COPYRIGHT 1975

PUT POLITICS ASIDE

(Presented by Paul Raymon)

Monday, February 3, 1975

No one can truly assess the results of the President's visit to Atlanta. We doubt that will be possible for weeks or months to come.

But we're confident that we express the sentiments of our State and Region in saying we're glad the President and his top hands are getting out to talk to, and hear from, the people. We're only sorry that this is not a bipartisan visit with leaders of the Democratic Congress coming arm-in-arm with the Republican President.

Arm-in-arm doesn't have to mean total agreement. But it would carry the promise of action before this economic storm builds into even more serious consequences.

Instead of concerned joint action the people are seeing our national government engaged in a war of words on a battleground of party politics.

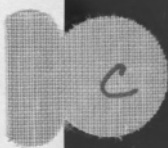
We're sure Georgians are fed up with this and so is the nation. That's the message that should go out from this Atlanta conference, loud enough to be heard in Washington.

WAGA-TV offers a reasonable opportunity to reply to the views expressed in the editorial to a responsible person or group representing a significant opposing viewpoint, provided request for reply time is submitted to WAGA-TV within one week of this telecast.

7:55 PM
WAGA-TV

PO BOX 4207 - ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30302

PAUL RAYMON
Vice Pres & Gen Mgr
TERRY MCGUIRE
Station Mgr
DALE CLARK
Dir Public Affairs



copy The State of Texas
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Austin

WILLIAM P. HOBBY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 13, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the enjoyable and productive breakfast session in Houston. I think it greatly aided the understanding of your positions by all present.

Following up on our discussion of natural gas taxation, I must reiterate my opposition to the \$.37 across-the-board approach. This increased cost would be passed on to all consumers in Texas and elsewhere--through utility rates and through the cost of products derived from natural gas or produced at plants powered by natural gas. Our best estimates are that this excise tax would cost each person in Texas (not households) an additional \$127.56 per year. This is 3.8 times the proposed income tax rebate of \$33.48 per person for 1974, without including the cost of the excise tax on crude oil.

Although I agree with the need for stringent conservation, I feel that this tax would serve no other purpose than to feed inflation. Texans already are conserving as much as possible because natural gas prices have jumped enormously over the past 18 months. The State Board of Control, which operates our Capitol complex of offices, is now paying \$1.26/mcf, as compared to the Federal Power Commission's regulated price of \$.50/mcf for interstate sales. Even with the price increases, the Federal Power Commission has estimated that Texas will suffer curtailments of 208 million mcf this winter. These curtailments will slow production of petroleum and petrochemical products and of construction materials, all of which are needed to keep the economy running. Because of the unavailability of fuel, our utilities already are converting to nuclear and coal-powered plants. Three lignite plants are operating now, and three more are planned.

The President

-2-

February 13, 1975

An alternative action that you and Congress might consider is the deferred imposition of an excise tax on natural gas used as a boiler fuel, to become effective some time in the future, such as 1982. This would provide an economic incentive for the utilities and other industries to convert before that time. The economic advantage of conversion would also help these industries to obtain financing of the conversion.

A more important and sounder conservation measure would be to require the extraction of a minimum percentage of the ethane from natural gas, which would ensure the supply of these high-BTU hydrocarbons for those markets dependent on them, including rural homes and schools for heating and cooking; farmers who use these fuels for drying crops; and the petrochemical industries who use these hydrocarbons as the raw material for making rubber, plastics, medicines, and fibers on which our economy is so dependent. The Texas Legislature is considering proposals in these areas at this time, but any action we take on the intrastate market cannot be effective unless similar steps are taken on the interstate market at the same time.

I want to express my appreciation for your willingness to propose action forthrightly for dealing with our energy problems. Of course, decontrol of the price of crude oil, at least from fields using secondary and tertiary recovery methods and preferably from all crude oil, by executive action is the one step that would move us closer to reducing our energy vulnerability than any other action available to you today. Although I disagree with some portions of your program, I am grateful for your leadership in trying to get America moving toward a rational national energy policy.

Sincerely,

WPHobby

1

KWOL-TV
4

EDWARD V. CHEVIOT
VICE PRESIDENT
AND GENERAL MANAGER

FEB 24 1975

February 20, 1975

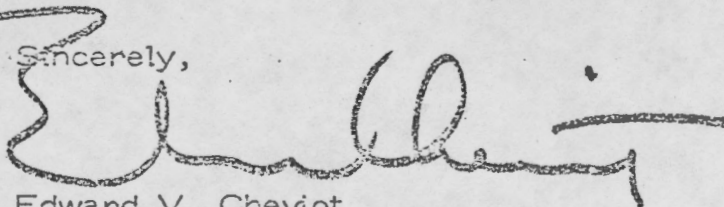
Dear Mr. President:

I want to thank you for inviting me to participate in the briefing which you held in Houston for the southwest regional news media executives on February 11th.

I am convinced that your extraordinary efforts to communicate to the news media in this kind of forum will be productive and fruitful, and I would hope that your office would continue to use this vehicle in your future endeavors.

Your candor and your determination to "get the message out" to those of us who can transmit it to millions of Americans is a new approach that will help to enlighten the country as a whole.

Sincerely,



Edward V. Cheviot

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

bc: Ron Nesson
Press Secretary

Waco News-Tribune
WAGO TIMES-HERALD
TEXAS

PAT TAGGART
PUBLISHER

February 27, 1975

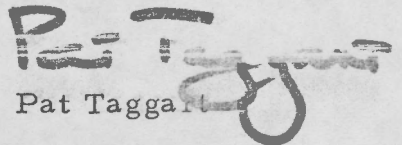
Gerald Warren, Deputy Press Secretary
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Thank you most kindly for sending me the President's energy and economic proposals in documentary form.

I was impressed with President Ford's forthrightness and low-keyed excellence in presenting his ideas to the folks at the Houston breakfast meeting. I told him there and then I was for him 1000% - and I meant it.

Sincerely,


Pat Taggart

PT/r

Whreueport Journal

STANLEY R. TINER
EDITOR

February 20, 1975

Gerald L. Warren,
Deputy Press Secretary to the President,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jerry:

Thank you so very much for the information which you sent to me concerning the President's economic and energy programs.

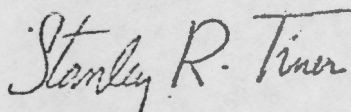
Those documents will be very helpful, as was the breakfast visit with the President in Houston. I think that his method of carrying his fight directly to the people at the grassroots level is very effective.

I am enclosing an editorial from the Journal of February 19 concerning the President's right to make such a grassroots presentation. I thought you might find it of interest.

One request please, Jerry: If you could possibly do so, would you see if you could track down a copy of Alan Greenspan's 30-page treatise on the economy? I should like very much to see it.

Thank you very much for your efforts in advance and for the information I received today.

Sincerely,



Stanley R. Tiner,
Editor.

SRT/nb

Arkansas  Gazette.

LITTLE ROCK
ARKANSAS

HUGH B. PATTERSON, JR.
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

February 24, 1975

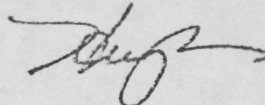
Mr. Gerald L. Warren
Deputy Press Secretary
to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jerry:

I appreciate your sending the copies of the basic documents relating to the President's economic and energy programs.

I had intended before now to write and express my pleasure at visiting with you in Houston, but I have been extremely busy, and so I will just take this opportunity to say that our visit added considerably to the value of the Houston meeting for me.

Sincerely yours,



Hugh B. Patterson, Jr.

HBP:mnmm

Guaranty Broadcasting Corporation

P. O. BOX 2671 BATON ROUGE, LA. 70821

A CBS TELEVISION NETWORK AFFILIATE

WAFB
TV-FM
TELEVISION CH. 9 / FM 93.1 MC

February 24, 1975

Mr. Gerald L. Warren
Deputy Press Secretary
to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

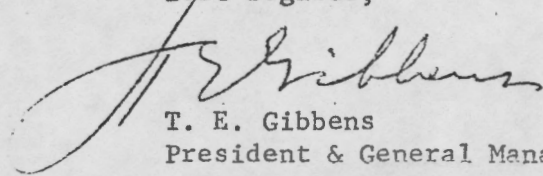
Dear Mr. Warren:

I appreciated the invite to breakfast with President Ford and you and your associates in Houston. We were grateful for the frank comments and honest answers to the various questions.

Thank you also for enclosing the material with your February 13 letter. It has been handed, along with your telephone number, to our News Director for his use.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Best regards,



T. E. Gibbens
President & General Manager

TEG/pa

Comment:

Corpus Christi Caller
2/12/75

Ford, though no charmer, seems sincere

By EDWARD H. HARTE
Editor and Publisher

HOUSTON — Charismatic he isn't. Candid he is. And convincing he is becoming.

President Ford's breakfast meeting with newspaper publishers and broadcasting moguls Tuesday provided me with my first opportunity to observe him close at hand.

I was impressed.

It was an easy occasion. There were about 80 guests, including Vann M. Kennedy of Channel 10 and State Sen. Michael D. McKinnon of Channel 3.

We were cleared by the Secret Service as we entered a private dining room at the Shamrock Hilton. I established that I was

sat down. I was assigned to the President's table of 10. There were gold bordered place-cards by our plates and White House matches in the ash trays, which were put to almost instant use when the President lit up his pipe.

He wore a crisply tailored pin-stripe suit, two-button model, a blue shirt with button-down collar, and a red and blue tie. I figured, clothes weren't the most important thing in his life; I had seen him on TV the night before in the same suit and tie.

During breakfast the conversation at our table was about ordinary things — sports, World War II stories, and some politics. Nobody asked him the searching

question, and he did not volunteer the quote of the week.

Tom Johnson, a former White House press officer for LBJ and now publisher of the Dallas Times Herald, reminded Ford that in the Johnson administration Republicans in Congress frequently worked closely and constructively with the White House.

Ford said, without any sharpness of word or tone, that he didn't think the present Democratic Congress would take a leadership role anytime soon, which is certainly a safe guess as long as Carl Albert and Mike Mansfield are in control.

See Ford, page 12A

Press Secretary Ron Nessen then introduced the President, who spoke informally for about 20 minutes, after which he answered questions until it was time for him to leave for Topeka.

He dealt almost entirely with his energy package, which calls for cutting imports one million barrels a day this year and even more next year. Included in the package is a \$3 a barrel import tax, decontrol of oil and gas prices, and windfall profits taxes.

As befits his matter-of-fact style, Ford said his program isn't perfect. But, he insisted, it is better than anything that Congress has offered the country, and that if we don't act quickly we will merely increase our dependence on foreign oil.

He fielded questions about a variety of energy-related subjects. All his comments reflect his view that the United States must achieve something approaching energy independence and stem the hemorrhage of dollars to the Middle East.

His political philosophy is equally clear. He believes in "price mechanism" to allocate scarce materials. He distrusts rationing, government allocations, and "bureaucracy."

I got the impression of a President thinking seriously about this nation's long-range security (that, after all, is what Presidents are supposed to do, although Nixon sullied the concept considerably).

Ford's solutions to our problems may not be the most brilliant imaginable. But contrasted with the far-out approach of the Democratic Congress, it doesn't seem all bad, by any means.

I think the President's candor, his emphasis on the big issues, his flexibility, and his essential modesty will go far toward restoring his public support.

Incidentally, at no time did he behave like a man running for re-election. On the contrary, he seemed absorbed in issues far more important than the next election — which might be the smartest re-election strategy he could adopt.

Asks Quick Action ^{2/11/75} On Energy

By ROBERT W. LEE

Herald-Post Editor

HOUSTON — President Ford, declaring the U.S. is becoming more vulnerable to the whims of the petroleum exporting companies, urged Congress to act quickly on his proposed energy program. He said that if Congress does act, he will eliminate his proposed tariff on imported oil. (He has proposed a \$3 tariff on imported oil in three steps, Feb. 1, March 1 and April 1.)

The President's talk was made at a breakfast meeting of editors of the Southwest today held at the Shamrock Hilton here. He stressed that his bill would be equitable and listed the main points: first, that it would spur conservation of energy; secondly that it would help develop the domestic supply of oil and third, which he stressed most heavily, the bill would be equitable because while it would increase the cost of energy, that increase would be offset by tax reductions.

PRESIDENT FORD said it was estimated his program would cost the nation between \$20 and \$31 billion per year and would represent a 2 per cent increase in the cost of living. But, he said, that increased cost would be offset by the following provisions: state and local governments would get back some \$2 billion via Revenue Sharing; individuals which would experience an increased cost of some \$16 billion, would get this back by cuts in the 1975 withholding tax business which would have an increased cost of some \$6 billion, would have this offset by cuts in corporations taxes from 48 per cent to 42 per cent.

The Federal Government would retain some \$3 billion of the amount collected in the tariffs and this would offset its own increased expenses.

People who pay no taxes, such as the needy, but who still must pay increased fuel costs, would get back about \$2 billion in direct payments.

HE STRESSED the vulnerability of this country to the oil exporting nations and the tremendous increase in costs of imported oil which has gone from \$3 a barrel two years ago to \$11 a barrel now. The President said in 1970 we paid about \$3 billion to the oil exporting nations and in 1974 we paid \$24 billion. In 1980, we will pay from \$32 to \$33 billion. He pointed out that none of this money helped the U.S. in terms of providing new jobs or income. "We cannot afford to be that vulnerable," he said.



Editor's Corner

By PETE LEE

Whatever else President Gerald Ford may be, he certainly is one of our least pretentious Presidents.

I was standing in the Continental Room of the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston Tuesday morning chatting with an assortment of other editors from all over the Southwest, when a chap came through the door walked over joined one of the groups shook hands and started chatting.

I had to do a double take to assure myself that it wasn't just another editor, it was the President of the United States.

AT EVERY OTHER presidential affair I've attended over the years the President has entered the room to the strains of "Hail to the Chief" — or at least surrounded by a retinue of retainers while the audience stood at respectful attention. Mr. Ford's entry was casual, to put it mildly.

He wore, if you care, a dark blue suit, blue shirt and figured red tie. And at breakfast a few minutes later he puffed on a pipe between courses (mixed fruits served in half a coconut plus sweet rolls plus a potato-stuffed egg omelet, plus rather cold coffee). The President is a right handed smoker, but holds the pipe in the left side of his mouth.

The breakfast was the purpose of the meeting — one of several such the President is holding here and there around the nation with editors and broadcast executives seeking to sell his energy and economics programs. In Houston the emphasis was on the energy side probably because this state is very big in oil and natural gas.

The President, who talked and fielded questions immediately after the breakfast did a good sales job.

The one thing that came through most clearly is that he looks on his energy program as one that will promote conservation of fuel, spur domestic production of oil and gas and yet will not upset the economy.

A REACTION I heard from many people when the program was first announced went something like this: "Big deal — he's giving us back some of our tax money and then making us spend it on higher fuel costs. We're not gaining a thing."

In actuality the President proposes to do things the other way around — raise fuel costs then give back tax money to make up for the added expense. The effect, of course is basically the same whichever way you put it. The taxpayer doesn't come out ahead. But Mr. Ford didn't intend necessarily that the taxpayer should come out ahead — only that he break even.

What he proposes is a \$3 a barrel tariff on imported oil, imposed \$1 a time over a three-month period; plus lifting of controls on the price of domestic oil. He and his advisors estimate that the resultant increase in the cost of gasoline and other oil-related products will come to a total of about \$30 billion a year.

To offset that increase, Mr. Ford proposes rebates or tax cuts by which the increased oil income would be returned, in effect to all segments of the economy.

THUS THE FEDERAL Government itself would retain some \$3 billion; business would get about \$6 billion back in the form of a reduction in taxes from 48 to 42 per cent; state and local governments would get some \$2 billion back in the form of additional revenue-sharing funds; the taxpayers would get back some \$16 billion through a reduction in 1975 withholding taxes; and the needy who pay no taxes would get some \$2 billion in direct payments — a sort of negative income tax.

The question naturally arises: Why go through all this exercise if everyone is going to get back in taxes what they spent on increased fuel costs? Why not simply keep fuel costs and taxes as they are?

The answer is that the President looks on his program as one which will spur conservation among other things. If you are forced to pay more for gas and oil, you may start voluntarily to cut down on the use thereof. He believes his program should result in conservation of some one million barrels of oil per day this year and two million barrels per day by 1977.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. He like other Americans is concerned by our growing dependence on foreign oil. He believes the proposed tariff would result in decreased purchases of foreign oil, with the result that we'd be less vulnerable as a nation to the whims of oil exporting nations and to the possibility of another oil embargo.

At the same time decontrol of domestic gas and oil price regulations would result in higher prices providing not only an incentive but the finances wherewith to search for new supplies of the fuels and promote production of domestic oil and gas.

The Administration figures the increased costs would raise the cost of living by about two per cent. That figure has been challenged, and has been re-checked and re-confirmed, the President told us.

(Tomorrow: More on the President's case.)



Editor's Corner

By PETE LEE

President Ford has been stumping the country to drum up support for his energy and economics program, and has an obvious feeling that he is making some headway.

Last Tuesday in Houston, this editor, with others from the Southwest, listened to the President's pitch at a breakfast meeting in the Shamrock Hilton Hotel, and it was impressive.

You may not agree with the President's program (and I admit to serious reservations as to its inflationary effect on the economy), but you must admit to his argument that at least he HAS a program, while Congress has dilly-dallied on the matter. He's willing to compromise, and, as he told us in Houston, he is realist enough not to expect to get everything he asks.

YOU MUST ALSO share his frustration when he speaks of Congress spending more time on a bill to stop the exercise of presidential powers than on study of his energy bill, or an energy bill of its own. He speaks also of the peculiar stance of some officials.

Talking of a meeting with New England governors, he told us:

"They don't want new refineries; they don't want offshore oil exploration; they don't want nuclear plants; they don't want any change in clean air regulations — sometimes I wonder what they DO want."

And he adds: "And that part of the country would be hardest hit if there were a new oil embargo."

This is what gives the President's program great impetus — the vulnerability of this country to the whims of oil exporting nations, and to the possibility of another oil embargo. It is what has given impetus all along to official alarm over the energy shortage, and made it clear that this nation needs to become self-sufficient in energy sources. This doesn't mean cutting out imports entirely, it simply means insuring domestic supplies to the point where, if a new embargo came on us, we could live through it without too much pain.

THE PRESIDENT doesn't see much likelihood that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will reduce the price of oil (currently about \$11 per barrel), but even if that were to happen he does not feel that domestic policies should be revised, for there

still would be a need to reduce reliance on imports.

He points to the fact that imports last year were around seven million barrels, as opposed to six million the year before. And he points to how much the OPEC pricing squeeze has cost us.

In 1970 oil imports cost us \$3 billion. In 1974 the cost had risen to \$24 billion. By 1980, it will be \$32 or \$33 billion — "and not one dollar of that money helped this country, or provided a single new job."

Something of the same argument applies to his aversion to gasoline rationing. Rationing might cut down on the use of oil, but it would not produce a single new barrel or a single new job, he says, nor would it greatly reduce our vulnerability to the policies of the oil-rich nations. He doesn't say so, but the implication is that rationing in itself would assure nothing but continued rationing, ad infinitum.

His own program, he said, would insure conservation, promote domestic production, reduce reliance on imports. By 1985, he feels, it could result in a four million barrels per day cut in importing of oil.

Meetings with the OPEC nations are to come, he said, but will be preceded by meetings with other oil-using nations, in the hope of presenting a solid front, and also of inducing those nations to conserve two million barrels of oil daily, while the United States conserves one million a day.

BREAKFAST WITH the President, and his talk on his energy program, consumed about an hour and a half, at which time Ron Nessen, the President's press secretary, announced Mr. Ford had to be on his way.

The President shook hands with each editor before leaving them to a further briefing by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton and Sid Jones, an assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury.

But as he left he made one quip worth repeating here. Someone asked him something about his recent skiing trip at Vail, Colorado, and how he liked his job.

"If they'd make me Justice of the Peace in Vail," the President said, "I'd quit this job in a minute."

He was kidding—I think.

(Monday: Transfer programs.)



El Paso Herald-Post

A SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWSPAPER

ROBERT W. LEE, Editor

Mills avenue and Kansas street

Phone 532-1661

SECTION B, PAGE 2

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1975

Ford's Energy Program

Acting with rare speed, the House of Representatives has voted to postpone President Ford's \$3-a-barrel tax on imported oil for 90 days to give Congress time to think of an alternative.

If the Senate backs up the House action, as it should, the Administration is sure to complain that its hands are tied by a "Do-Nothing Congress."

We urge Congress to run the risk of being called names by the White House. That would be less dangerous to the country than putting Ford's energy policy into effect.

This is said with sympathy to Ford for the problems he faces and with respect for the work that went into drafting his program. It may even have been valid when it was drawn up a couple of months ago, but it looks dead wrong today.

Since the energy plan took shape, unemployment has soared to 8.2 per cent and the nation has fallen into its deepest recession since 1937-39. In such a predicament, the last thing we need is more economic drag — and that is what the Ford program means in several ways.

For example, the Administration wants to cut oil imports by one million barrels a day this year. That simply would contribute to a lower level of economic activity, which is not acceptable at this time.

Similarly, Ford's planned \$3 tax on imported and domestic oil would act as a \$50 billion drag on the economy. By raising almost every price in the

country, it would worsen inflation, reduce consumer purchasing power and prolong the recession.

Of course there are good reasons for wanting to trim oil imports. Our balance of payments would benefit. There would be some pressure on the international oil cartel to lower prices. And America's vulnerability to another Arab oil embargo might be lessened.

But the nation's first priority today is to stop the slide in the economy. That is even more important than foreign-policy considerations, such as "showing OPEC we mean business" or assuming "leadership of the oil-consuming west."

We do not counsel abandoning efforts to become less dependent on foreign oil suppliers. But this should be done on a careful long-term basis — not with an import-slashing spasm that harms the economy.

There are many long-range measures that Congress and the Administration should promote. Among them are stepping up offshore drilling, using the naval petroleum reserves, building more nuclear power stations, mining more coal, converting coal into gas and getting serious about energy conservation.

But no sensible program can include a deliberate across-the-board spurt in fuel prices. The five-fold boost in oil prices imposed by the cartel last year was a body blow to the economy. Why follow it up with a self-inflicted rabbit punch?

'Salesman' Ford at Ease, Friendly in Pushing Program

By SAM WOOD

He stood comfortably before publishers, editors and broadcasters of four states, holding a 167-page printed document in his right hand and a four-sheet tab in the other.

The right hand represented his bill before Congress that puts together the many parts of his energy program.

The left represented Congress' bill intended to delay the administration's graduated fee on foreign oil imports, which is the first major step in his conservation program.

"Congress so far," he said, "has spent its time on this four-page bill . . . it is a step backward . . . Congress should be working on their plan or my plan."

Related Stories, Page 7

It was just that smooth. No venom, no pressure, but pointed and supported by his own facts and figures.

President Ford was every bit the salesman, the guy with a program he believes in so strongly he apparently does not intend to yield to his opposition.

It was difficult to avoid mental comparisons of Ford and his predecessors as he presented his case to Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi media executives gathered at his invitation for breakfast in the Shamrock Hilton.

There was no boyish "give me your hand" eagerness of Jack Kennedy. Missing was the

"let us reason together" style of Lyndon Johnson. And the stiff formality of Nixon was conspicuous by its absence.

He talked as if he knew everyone in the room personally. It came freely. There were no notes. He knew his figures, his dates and his subjects.

President Ford had detailed his energy program and its ramifications to Texas oilmen and Houston business leaders late Monday afternoon. Monday evening he dined with five governors, including Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

His breakfast with the news executives hit some high spots in the nation's need to gain, through conservation and expanded domestic production of gas, oil and coal, independence in the energy field.

Plugging for his program, he asserted that "conservation would save one million barrels of crude oil a day this year and two million barrels a day next year."

He hinted he had enough support in Congress to override a veto of the 90-day delay in his plan to place a \$3 per barrel fee (in three steps) on foreign crude.

The President insisted the program would result in only a 2 per cent cost of living increase.

He called his program "equitable."

It would, he said, funnel the \$31 billion added revenue back into the economy through revenue sharing with the states and their sub-divisions; to the individuals "whose added

energy cost" will be given back through income tax rebate; and to corporations through a reduction in the corporate tax rate from 48 per cent to 42 per cent.

As for his opposition? Asked his reaction to Governor Briscoe's "alternate plan" the President, who said he had been in Congress long enough to know you have to have disagreement occasionally, added: "I am a realist. In our case, we think we have a comprehensive plan." He did not otherwise refer to the Briscoe proposal of a series of tax credits for industrial compliance in fuel conservation and oil exploration.

President Ford chastized the Northeastern states for their lack of cooperation. "They don't want refineries . . . don't want offshore

drilling . . . we wonder what they want. It is pretty hard to find out."

At this point Secretary of Interior Rogers Morton volunteered the information the administration may go to court in an effort to develop offshore drilling in the Pacific and the Atlantic.

The President dropped some somber warnings:

If we had a foreign oil embargo today it would have a tremendous adverse impact upon our economy and.

The United States (until an effective energy conservation program makes headway) is "getting more and more vulnerable to the whims and fancies of the oil producing nations." This is a threat to national security.

Editorials

Doing, and Not Doing

It must be marvelous to be a congressman or labor leader and be able to point with alarm at President Ford's economic program, stand aghast at the jobless rate and aim an unwavering finger at the Federal Reserve Board.

It must be particularly nice to be able to say all that without actually doing anything on one's own; for instance, without developing an alternate proposal for dealing with the economic and energy crises.

George Meany of the AFL-CIO is huffing and puffing about what we really, really need is more public service jobs and public works grants and tax relief. That sort of thing is inflationary, stop-gap and attacks symptoms, not problems.

Rep. Henry Reuss, D-Wis., says the energy problem is less important than the economy. It is our view that the energy problem and the economic morass are inextricably linked. Both have to be solved, and at the same time.

Rep. Reuss is quick to say the Fed

and its chairman Arthur Burns "sat by and allowed this to happen," neatly ignoring the fact that the Congress did its share of bench-warming.

Reuss's energy crisis solution apparently is to create enough hot air to warm the world with such holier-than-thou puffery as:

"We in Congress have seen what a hash the administration has made out of the economy and we are now determined to stop being polite" and do what needs to be done.

Such determination moves mountains. Congress is so determined to do something that it took a 10-day holiday without having done anything we remember except to latch on to the President's idea of a tax cut and try to take credit for it.

We eagerly await the alternate proposal. Maybe it will be the very own creation of the Congress. Meantime, President Ford has proposed something in concrete terms, which is more than can be said of the Congress thus far.

Ford Discusses His Energy Plans With News Executives

President Gerald R. Ford today told news executives of the area that he will continue to urge non-Arab oil-producing nations to join the United States in an oil conservation program.

Ford suggested that Great Britain, France, West Germany and Japan conserve a combined 2 million barrels of oil a day, with the United States conserving 1 million barrels.

Everett D. Collier, editor of the Houston Chronicle, said this was discussed by Ford during a 25-minute question-and-answer session with about 100 news executives at the Shamrock Hilton.

Collier, who sat at the President's immediate right, said Ford seemed at ease, and the exchange between Ford and the news executives was relaxed and cordial.

Ford also told his guests that if the Arabs renew an oil embargo against the United States, it will have far more seri-

ous effect than the 1974 embargo because of poor economic conditions, Collier reported.

Ford told the group that Congress should be working on his plan, not working to suspend his plan.

Immediately after the meeting with the editors, Ford left for Ellington field from where he flew to Topeka, Kan., to meet with a group of midwest governors and address a joint session of the Kansas legislature. His speech dealt with energy needs of agriculture.

Earl H. Rast Jr., vice-president of KFDA-TV in Amarillo, said Ford's primary purpose in meeting with the news group was to "ask the communications media to take his message back to their communities."

Tom Johnson, publisher of the Dallas

(See FORD, Page 2)

Ford Discusses His Energy Plans With News Executives

FROM PAGE 1

Times-Herald and a former adviser to President Lyndon B. Johnson, said that reports of friction between Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe and Ford at their Monday night dinner meeting were exaggerated.

Johnson quoted Ford's press secretary, Ron Nessen, as saying that in fact

Briscoe and Ford found their views on energy questions not so divergent as they had expected.

Ford seemed thoroughly familiar with the problems and issues that the nation faces, Johnson said.

The news executives who attended the Ford meeting were from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Getting out of Washington

Regardless of what he might accomplish in the specific aim of support for his economic-energy program through trips such as the one here, we think it is just a plain good idea for President Ford to get out of Washington every once in a while.

The perspective on the nation's problems and the reading of the people's concerns and attitudes is always different away from the capital city.

Washington is so inbred, so singlemindedly preoccupied with its sole industry — government — and so immersed in all its political and bureaucratic machinations that there is a constant danger of its inhabitants losing touch with the real world outside.

This is in the nature of things and can't really be prevented. But it can be offset to some degree, and should be, by those in the Washington establishment getting out of that atmosphere and sampling the country at large, face to face.

Such travel has been one of the posi-

tive factors of the President's administration almost from the moment he took office under most trying circumstances. It is commendable.

We well understand that to a great degree the President travels in an insulated fashion which inhibits some of the contact that might be desirable. But this inherent limitation on the presidency makes even more important those contacts and discussions which the President can have outside the smothering trappings of the White House. Just being on the other fellow's home grounds can make a subtle difference in what you hear and how you react to it.

It has been a pleasure to have had the President here. He certainly has left us with some better understanding of him and his programs. And we trust that he has found something worthwhile here which he cannot find in Washington — a better reading of the country.

Getting out of Washington

(Editorial in Houston Chronicle)

Regardless of what he might accomplish in the specific aim of support for his economic-energy program through trips such as the one here, we think it is just a plain good idea for President Ford to get out of Washington every once in a while.

The perspective on the nation's problems and the reading of the people's concerns and attitudes is always different away from the capital city.

Washington is so inbred, so sin-

glemindedly preoccupied with its sole industry — government — and so immersed in all its political and bureaucratic machinations that there is a constant danger of its inhabitants losing touch with the real world outside.

This is in the nature of things and can't really be prevented. But it can be offset to some degree, and should be, by those in the Washington establishment getting out of that atmosphere and sampling the country at large, face to face.

New Orleans Times-Picayune

Feb. 25, 1975

Ford shows understanding

President Ford in meeting with governors and businessmen here addressed himself primarily to the national energy problems and demonstrated that he has done his homework.

The President showed an understanding of the problems facing the oil industry. He spoke of the way drilling costs have skyrocketed. He spoke of the necessity for incentives that would make the financial risk of drilling for new oil worthwhile.

The President has since indicated he is open for negotiation on the point of windfall taxes so that there could be capital available to plow back into finding new supplies of petroleum.

The President's energy problem is not wholeheartedly supported by those on whom the nation is depending to find much-needed energy. Some of the oilmen called for clearer evidence of the incentives to drill the

thousands of new wells the President speaks of. Others expressed fear of punitive taxation. But there was also favorable response to the President's desire to push Congress into development of a national energy policy.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe, who has taken the lead in pointing out how damaging Ford's proposal for a federal tax on natural gas would be, said he appreciated the opportunity to give the President his views.

The advice given the President here, if heeded, would go far toward developing a positive energy program, one designed to meet this nation's needs instead of one that would lead us into a bleak future.

Altogether, the President left the impression that he will try to give the oil industry the tools it needs to work with to get petroleum out of the ground and into the mainstream of American economy.

Ford continues energy campaign

By JANE ELY
Post Reporter

President Ford made one more pitch for his energy program—this time to news executives of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi—before moving his policy selling campaign from Houston to Kansas Tuesday morning.

Many of the hundred or so top-level editors and broadcast executives who breakfasted with the President at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel said Ford told them "nothing new," but several indicated he was well received.

"I think the President's opposition to rationing was quite popular with the editors," said one, adding he felt Ford was making an "implied" request for the editorial support of his breakfast guests throughout the session.

Several called the President's remarks a repeat of what he said formally Monday at an energy-economy conference here and was reported to have told five Democratic governors at a private dinner Monday night.

"He (Ford) outlined his program and answered some questions—it was all famil-

iar," an executive said. He quoted the President as saying of his Monday night dinner with the governors: "We had a very good discussion."

Ford, himself, on his way into the breakfast said, in response to a question, "We had a very delightful evening."

Another editor said the President used the word "wholesome" in describing the Monday dinner meeting.

"He made clear his points of disagreement with (Texas Gov. Dolph) Briscoe have not been resolved, but he did make the point he doesn't think he and Briscoe are as widely divergent as he thought they might be from what he had read," the editor said.

Several noted the President was continuing his tough talk about the Congress and its opposition to his energy program, but one editor pointed out:

"He made several references to his long years in Congress, that he was there long enough to know a president does not always get what he wants."

The editor quoted the President as describing himself as "a practical man."

Besides continuing to gibe

at the Congress, Ford also got in some more licks against the New England governors, the editors reported.

"He said he met with the governors up there and they were very much opposed to refineries there, to nuclear plants there, to offshore drilling for oil and gas there and to any relaxation of conservation efforts there," one said.

He said the President's tone of voice was an exasperated one when he said, "I don't know what they want."

In general, the news executives seemed to echo the impressions of Texas Republican party officials who, after meeting with Ford Monday, spoke glowingly of his candor.

"He seemed willing to discuss anything or answer any question," one editor said.

All who were questioned after the breakfast, however, said there was no mention of politics Tuesday morning.

Most of the executives trailed out of the Shamrock's Continental Room right after the President's departure for flight to Kansas, but about 39 stayed for a more technical

and detailed session with presidential aides, including Interior Secretary Rogers C.

B. Morton.

The bottom line

Our unemployment picture is so confused almost any reasonable prediction—up or down—has some expert support.

Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, predicted last week unemployment would peak at 8.5 per cent later this year. Just one day later the report came out that unemployment had surged to 8.2 per cent in January.

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, says the rate may reach 10 per cent by July. President Ford says he doesn't foresee any such figure, predicting unemployment will gradually go down at the end of this year.

With 7.5 million unemployed, the highest level since 1949, unemployment is being labeled a crisis, and along with that label is coming demands for drastic action.

Attention focuses on Congress and the President. Congress is talking primarily about expanded public service programs and additional social assistance through welfare and food programs. The President insists his more moderate economic proposals will carry the nation past the unemployment hump.

The unemployment figure is the bottom line as far as the worker is concerned. With no income, the other economic indices quickly fade in importance. Nevertheless, the unemployment figure is but a reflection of the general economic condition, and that is what must be addressed. Any cure must deal with the overall problem, not just the most prominent symptom, unemployment.

The President is releasing impounded funds for sewer treatment plants and highways, and that will provide help in due time. Public service jobs can provide aid, but to a very limited number of people. More welfare isn't what the unemployed want—they want jobs.

To make any significant reduction in an unemployment total of 7.5 million there must be a rejuvenation of private enterprise. And that will require confidence, stability and growth. Federal spending that leads to gigantic deficits, threats of new taxes on profits, an uncertain money market, legislators each pushing for pet schemes, a bureaucracy seeking to expand its power—all of these factors have a depressing effect on the economic picture and each must be dealt with and rectified.

In the face of uncertainty, consumers have held back, inventories have been reduced, investors have been reluctant to make commitments, decisions have been delayed, production has been cut back and jobs have become scarce.

We remain confident in the ability of our economy to respond to the current pressures if it does not have to carry too heavy a burden of government control and irresponsibility.

The answer to unemployment does not lie in putting 7.5 million people in government jobs or on welfare but in providing the needed stability and economic stimulus to generate that many jobs in the private sector.

An impatient nation

This is an impatient nation. It always has been. We have been impatient with distance, expanding westward and reaching out to the Moon. We have been impatient with inefficiencies, creating assembly lines and computers. We are impatient with our government, too, wanting action overnight, if not yesterday.

Right now, we are asking impatiently that the President and Congress provide solutions to our economic and energy problems. One of the reasons for the sense of urgency at the policy-making stage is the growing realization of how much time expires between idea and execution. The time lags we face range from months to years.

Getting a bill through Congress when there is general agreement takes months. There is no consensus on our major problems today. An economy policy or an energy policy is not established in one committee or one bill, but in a multitude of measures that can even wind up at cross purposes. A tax cut can be handled in months; a bill labeled "tax reform" might never see the light of day.

The bureaucratic side in Washington is just as bad, if not worse. A businessman who wants to build a railroad

to carry coal or an oilman who wants to put a well down offshore often sits back amazed as the bureaucrats squabble. Getting a permit can take years, and on top of that the businessman knows it is going to take him months or years before the end product hits the market.

The time lag also has the ability to produce contrary results. Once a monetary policy is put in effect, a year might go by before the public begins to realize any difference. Prime the economic pump and the flow might reach full strength just when inflation picks up again.

Our very impatience can work against us, making us unwilling to accept the hard, long-term solutions. Frustration provides fodder for politicians who say they are the only ones with today's solutions to today's problems.

The solution to both the national impatience and the time lag is to fix our eyes on a more distant goal and make small course corrections as needed as we head in that direction. More easily said than done, we concede. But in times of stress in the past this nation has worked mightily for great and distant goals, and that is proof enough it can be done again.

We have promises to keep

The military experts tell us that both Cambodia and South Vietnam need more military assistance from the United States this fiscal year if they are to successfully withstand the Communist pressure being exerted against them.

There is ample evidence that the situation is perilous for both Southeast Asian governments. Just reading the headlines gives a convincing picture of how forces with the blessing and the direction of Hanoi are strangling Cambodia and overrunning South Vietnam.

President Ford has asked for additional aid totaling \$300 million for South Vietnam and \$222 million for Cambodia. Our commitments in Southeast Asia and the investment in money and lives we have already made there would indicate that there

is justification for Congress to approve at least a portion of the President's request.

Certainly, we have spent billions already in Indochina with discouraging results, but that does not mean we can simply pull out, forget about South Vietnam and Cambodia and cut off the aid.

If we renege on the promises we have made in Southeast Asia then we're going to have a difficult time persuading any other ally or prospective ally in the future to believe what we say.

So it boils down to a matter of how much aid we will provide, not whether we will help—if we are to honor our commitments. It's up to Congress to assess the situation in terms of past, present and future and decide the amount.

A booming federal business

One of America's fastest growing businesses, judging by the statistics, is the federal government.

The federal budget for fiscal year 1976 shows anticipated revenue of \$297.5 billion. That compares with total income of \$23.6 billion in 1943—more than a tenfold increase in 33 years.

Natural growth accounted for a portion of that increase, but a sizable

Briefly noted

Without searching for the psychological or physiological reasons, it suffices to say that green pleases the eye, particularly if the green is that of tree or shrub or grass.

Therefore, it is pleasing that so many business concerns these days are taking care to sprinkle green around their property.

A new grocery store landscapes the area between street and parking lot. Another parking lot is screened by mounds planted with shrubs. A nearby service station has palm trees and a pleasant rock garden.

In a glass and concrete world, these are big pluses.

We thank you.

chunk is the result of increased taxation—income taxes and other direct and indirect federal levies.

The tax bite has been especially noticeable for the middle income families during the inflationary period that began in this decade. A recent congressional economic survey showed that federal, state and local income taxes for a family of four with income of \$9,320 in 1974 rose an average of 31 per cent over 1973.

The states with the highest per capita contribution to the federal budget last year give some indication of the cost to the individual for keeping the government operating: \$2,069 in New Jersey, \$2,006 in Illinois and \$1,920 in New York.

Probably the most visible aspect of federal government growth is the swelling ranks of the bureaucracy. There are nearly 3 million people on the federal payroll, a jump of more than three-quarters of million in 25 years. And they're shuffling more than 5,000 different federal forms after having already amassed something like 30 million cubic feet of records for the federal government.

If the federal government keeps up the same pace, we shudder to think what the statistics will show in another three decades.

2/22/75

Don't gamble with defense

One of the tougher decisions facing Congress is what balance to strike between social programs and military spending.

In a time of economic trouble, with both rising unemployment and inflation, there are calls for more spending on social programs. At the same time, the Defense Department is pointing to the way inflation has curtailed its purchasing power and asking whether this nation wants to be No. 2 in military power.

President Ford's proposed budget clearly favors a strong military posture. He is asking for \$92.8 billion in defense expenditures, an increase of \$8 billion. And he is calling for reductions or holding the line in such programs as Social Security, food stamps and health.

We don't believe the \$92.8 billion figure must be held inviolate, but we agree with the President that we are in no position to gamble on national defense.

As it has for almost three decades, the budget argument revolves around the relative strength of the United States and the Soviet Union.

There are those who argue that the world has changed since the cold war, that the Russians are no longer the bitter enemies of the past and that the Russians also want to reduce the burden of large military budgets.

We can agree that there have been changes for the better since the con-

frontations of the cold war. Those changes came about, though, not because the United States was weak but because we could negotiate from a position of strength. Concede military dominance to the Soviet Union and we are certain international conditions would deteriorate to the point that the cold war would seem like a warm spell.

There is some degree of detente, but we would be more reassured if there was progress in the strategic arms limitation talks and if the Russians didn't seem anxious to take advantage of regional disputes. And we note that Russia is speeding deployment of a new missile that is the largest weapon of its kind in the world. In terms of constant dollars, the American defense budget has steadily fallen while the Soviet defense spending has been increasing. We have reduced the number of men in our military forces but Russia's men under arms has increased from 3 million to 4 million. The Soviet navy is expanding while ours has less than 500 active ships, smaller than at any time since 1959.

Congress may feel it necessary to postpone some of the new weapons programs the Pentagon seeks or extend other programs over a longer period of time. But we would not favor any budget cuts which would tilt the balance in favor of Russian military superiority in the years ahead.

Differences 'Resolvable,' Ford Contends

By CAROLYN BARTA

Political Writer of The News

HOUSTON—President Gerald Ford played down his differences with Gov. Dolph Briscoe over points in the governor's proposed energy program as he spoke here early Tuesday with news executives from a 4-state area.

Ford contended there were more points of agreement than disagreement when he met Monday night at a "working dinner" in Houston with five Southwestern governors, and indicated some of the differences with Briscoe are "not unresolvable."

Briscoe has received widespread publicity for saying the President's energy program would be a "disaster for the State of Texas."

FORD TOLD THE 65 publishing and broadcasting executives over

Gov. Briscoe said he offered a 3-point energy program to President Ford at Houston, Page 5B.

breakfast at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel he realizes there is opposition to his program but he did not find a wide divergence from his proposals among the governors.

He also indicated he is a "practical man" and doesn't expect to get everything he has asked for.

The breakfast was the last activity in Ford's 20-hour visit to Texas and followed his Monday night dinner with the governors of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, who attended the breakfast as president of the Houston Post, quoted Ford as saying he had a "very good discussion" with the governors.

Edwin D. Hunter, Houston Post vice-president and managing editor, added, "He made the point that the points of disagreement with Briscoe were not unresolvable."

FORD'S REMARKS ABOUT his meeting with Southwestern governors were in marked contrast to his description of a prior meeting with Northeastern governors, which Ford called "very difficult."

All the Northeastern governors would say, Ford told the news executives, is what they don't want — and that includes no new refineries, no offshore drilling, no nuclear energy plants built in their states, no relaxation of environmental regulations, and they don't want to convert from using

oil to coal.

"It's hard to find out what they do want," Ford said.

Gov. Briscoe told the President Monday night in explicit terms what he wants.

"I talked about the importance of getting back to a supply and demand situation, for deregulation," Briscoe said.

The Texas governor said if there is to be a windfall profits tax, there should also be a "payout provision" whereby the industry is allowed to plow back profits into new production.

BRISCOE ALSO TOLD the President of a shortage of natural gas in Texas and told of his opposition to an oil import fee and an excise tax on natural gas.

Briscoe said a 37¢ per 1,000 cubic foot excise tax on natural gas would cost Texas \$1.68 billion a year, which he termed a "disaster for the State of Texas."

Despite disagreements with parts of the President's energy program, Briscoe called the governors' meeting with the chief executive "friendly," and thanked the President for allowing Texas—the largest oil-producing state—to have "some input on his thinking."

All five Democratic governors indicated they favored deregulation as proposed by the President, but support legislation currently in the Senate to suspend the President's tariff authority for up to 90 days.

"The President's reaction was a reasonable one. He said he would consider the recommendations made by the governors," Briscoe said.

Before leaving Houston for Kansas, Ford talked extensively to the news executives about international implications of his energy program.

News executives attending the "backgrounder" breakfast had kind words about the President's frankness and informality. While the President did not ask them precisely to put his energy message before the public, "it was implied," said Houston Chronicle Editor Everett Collier.

Among those attending the limited invitation breakfast were Dallas Morning News President Joe M. Dealey, Managing Editor Tom Simmons, Belo Broadcasting Corp. Board Chairman James M. Moroney, and Belo Broadcasting President Mike Shapiro.

The Dallas Morning News

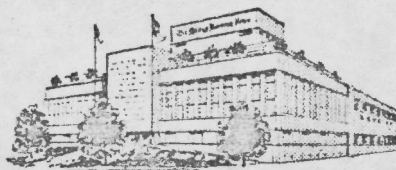
The News, oldest business institution in Texas, was established in 1842 while Texas was a Republic

Joseph M. Dealey
President

Richard D. Blum
Vice-President

Robert T. Richardson
Treasurer

Tom J. Simmons
Managing Editor



James M. Moroney Jr.
Executive Vice-President

William C. Smellage
Vice-President
and Secretary

Sol Katz
Vice-President

Dick West
Editorial Director

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1975

'The Poorest Answer'

PRESIDENT FORD came to Texas Monday with words that Texans like to hear:

The country will go into gasoline rationing "over my dead body," the President declared. Rationing, he said, is "the poorest answer I can imagine" to the nation's energy problem.



FORD

His words drew applause from his Texas audience. They ought to draw the attention of the rest of the country. Rationing is now being touted as the quick-fix solution to our energy dilemma, a dilemma that is centered in the gap between too much demand and too little domestic supply to meet it.

In truth, as the President pointed out, rationing would not be quick, and it would not be a solution. Those plugging a ration scheme give the impression that it would only last a few months. Fat chance.

Haven't we all learned enough about those "temporary" federal programs? Can anyone, considering the record, doubt that such a rationing plan and its accompanying bureaucracy will live on for years?

But the worst aspect of the rationing approach is that it attacks the problem from only one side. It is an attempt to depress the demand side of the energy gap—and only the demand side.

Rationing does nothing to increase supply, to stimulate the

search for larger reserves of conventional and unconventional energy. Indeed, the most probable result of a rationing program would be to discourage the output of money and effort to find new energy.

Any plan that depresses demand for fuel energy but depresses supply by an equal or greater amount will leave us with the same gap—the gap will merely be lower on the scale.

Obviously, the most promising approach to this gap between supply and demand is to work on both sides at once.

Recently a reader of The News chided us for emphasizing the need for additional energy supplies when the real need, as the reader sees it, is to conserve the supplies we now have. If we have given the impression that The News favors nothing but the increase-supplies approach, we have not made our position clear.

A 1-sided approach that plugs increasing supply, without paying equal attention to restraint of wasteful use of energy on the demand side, has the same flaw as the other 1-sided approach described: If both supply and demand soar by equal amounts, the gap remains.

We must attack both sides of the problem. On the demand side, we must use energy efficiently for maximum benefit and minimum waste. On the supply side, we must find new sources of energy that will meet, if not exceed, our nation's needs.

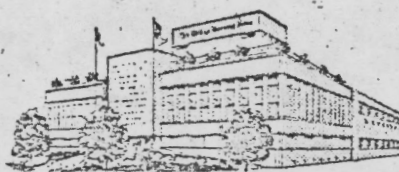
If you give the problem serious thought, you will see that rationing just won't get the job done.

Joseph M. Dealey
President

Richard D. Blum
Vice-President

Robert T. Richardson
Treasurer

Tom J. Simmons
Managing Editor



James M. Moroney Jr.
Executive Vice-President

William C. Smellage
Vice-President
and Secretary

Sol Katz
Vice-President

Dick West
Editorial Director

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1975

A Propaganda Point

CONSERVATIVES usually champion the legislative branch in battles between the White House and Capitol Hill. But there are times when arguing Congress' case can be difficult.

A look at Tuesday's developments on the energy front shows why. As nearly every American now knows, energy is not only a national problem, it is the problem that presents the greatest long-range danger to our economic progress.

We need a national energy program that will close the gap between short supplies and growing demand. A year has passed since this need for a solution became obvious.

President Ford has a plan. It is very complex, and some parts of the package of proposals are, in our view, of doubtful value.

But whatever we may think of the President's plan, he has had his experts draw it up, he has presented it to the Congress and the people. And on Tuesday of this week, he was out on a barnstorming tour trying to explain his plan and win support for it.

On the same day, Gov. Dolph Briscoe offered an even better plan of his own—better, at any rate, in that it suggests practical steps to encourage exploration for and production of petroleum energy.

The governor wants to see the price of "old" oil deregulated. He is particularly interested in stimulating the production of oil from "stripper" wells. These are wells of such low yield that they are near the dividing line between

profitable operation and shutdown because costs exceed return.

He also proposes a "plowback credit" on oil company income taxes for money that is plowed back into the search for new oil and gas.

Finally, Gov. Briscoe wants a priority program to speed delivery of steel and other materials that are badly needed in the oil fields. Shortages are now holding up development in some areas.

These are practical, down-to-earth suggestions that will help the country move ahead immediately.

Meanwhile, back on Capitol Hill what was the legislative branch doing on Tuesday about the energy problem? Unfortunately, not much. The Senate Finance Committee was supposed to meet and ponder a bill on energy that was recently passed by the House.

This bill would not propose a congressional plan to attack the problem, however. It would delay for 90 days the first step in the President's plan, the oil import tariff.

But the only thing delayed Tuesday was the House bill itself. Not enough senators showed up to form the necessary quorum. This day of the "no-shows" was, in the words of Senate Democratic Whip Robert C. Byrd, "a propaganda point" for the President.

Part of the President's pitch to the public is his claim that Congress will neither back his plan of action nor produce a plan of its own.

On Tuesday his claim sounded very convincing.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1975

'Help' From Congress

EVERYONE KNOWS, naturally, of Congress' ongoing attempts to give us all a tax cut and to block the President's energy program. But what else are our lawmakers doing up there to justify their \$42,500 annual salaries? Alas, precious little.

Here are a few of the more, shall we say, interesting bills that have lately been offered by way of meeting the public's concern for economic stability.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey and Rep. Augustus Hawkins, Democrats both, have introduced legislation to guarantee jobs to every adult desirous of one.

An ambitious undertaking, to be sure. We would have locally planned reservoirs of public and private jobs projects; the U.S. Full Employment Service would be employer of last resort. Humphrey and Hawkins unfortunately omitted to tell us how much such a program would cost the federal government and how many jobs would thereby be eliminated in the private sector by the consequent draining off of funds from private business. Perhaps this was not thought a matter of much interest.

Then there is the bill by Senators Scott, Kennedy, Mathias and Clark to give themselves—oh, yes, and all their colleagues, too—tax money to spend henceforth in their reelection campaigns. After all, if presidential candidates can spend the public's money trying to get elected, why may not congressmen do likewise?

The senators feel that only \$134 million would have to be spent every two years to accomplish their purpose. Which at least is more of a bargain than Humphrey and Hawkins offer.

Here also are Representatives Barbara Jordan and James Burke to propose that Social Security

benefits be extended to housewives.

With Miss Jordan's and Burke's basic premise—that we fail “to recognize homemaker services as a valuable contribution to the nation's economy”—there can be little quarreling. The homemaker is the most indispensable of Americans.

What Burke and Miss Jordan fail to explain is how the Social Security system can be kept afloat—it is sinking even now—if we add to it millions of workers who, if they pay anything at all into the system, are unlikely to pay nearly as much as they take out of it. The two congressmen think there is such a thing as a free lunch; any housewife knows better.

Nor is this all Burke proposes doing for us. As well, he wishes the federal government to distribute \$18 million of free—again that word!—seed to anyone who will use it to plant gardens.

Is there no good news, then, from Washington? Has no one introduced a bill that makes economic sense?

Well, there are various bills, including one by Rep. Alan Steelman of Dallas, to repeal the \$2,400 earnings limitation imposed on Social Security recipients; which limitation makes absolutely no sense and injures industrious recipients.

Then, Rep. Charles Grassley of Iowa, H. R. Gross' successor, has reintroduced Gross' perennial resolution to require that Congress make its outgo equal its income.

Otherwise, there is little cheer to be gained through pondering Congress' economic “solutions,” whose essence is the spending of tax money as though there were no tomorrow. What a pity for those to whom tomorrow will come, no matter what congressmen may promise.

Energy action vital

THE ISSUE: President Ford's energy program and the obstructionist role of Congress without offering its own plan.

PRESIDENT FORD apparently didn't convince any of the Texans he talked to in Houston this week that his energy conservation program is the proper one. But he did impress on his listeners one most important point.

He does have a program, a very carefully worked out and detailed program. Congress has no plan. In fact, Congress has put itself simply in the role of obstructionist.

With no program of its own to present as a substitute or as a basis for compromise, Congress' one action of any moment so far is consideration of a bill to suspend for 90 days the \$1 tariff on imported oil imposed by the President.

We think, and we have said so previously, that the President is on solid ground when he criticizes Congress for its completely negative obstructionism.

Let us hasten to say that we disagree with the President's plan for reducing petroleum consumption—his proposed eventual tariff of \$3 per barrel on imported oil, an excise tax of \$3 a barrel on domestic oil and an excise tax of 37 cents per 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe has said these measures would be a disaster to Texas. We agree with him. But even beyond Texas, the plan raises serious questions. For one thing, it is undoubtedly inflationary at a time when inflation is a continuing serious economic burden. At the same time, it seems doubtful to us that the increase in the price of gasoline the President's plan contemplates, will reduce gasoline consumption by enough to cut oil imports by his goal of one million barrels a day.

Let us make it clear that we are questioning only that part of the President's energy program which deals with immediate conservation. As we have said previously on this page, President Ford's plan for long-range development of present and new energy sources is excellent. And over the long haul that part of the program will be far more important than present energy conservation.

In this connection, we applaud the President's chastisement of Northeastern governors for their selfish attitude on oil production in that area.

"They don't want refineries; they don't want nuclear plants; they oppose offshore drilling; they strongly oppose changes in the Clean Air Act that would permit the transition from oil to coal fuels. It makes you wonder what they want," the President said.

The President impressed those with whom he conferred in Houston with his earnestness.

His was a somber attitude which left no doubt of his understanding of the critical nature of the problem and that it is one which must be solved. He reinforced that impression with the fact of his comprehensive energy program when Congress has none.

"We have a plan," he said. "Congress should be working on this plan or their own plan rather than suspending the President's plan."

He emphasized — and we don't think it can be overemphasized — that we should be moving on the solution of our energy problem.

"If we do nothing to assure a program within the next 10 years, we will be in a highly dangerous and vulnerable position," he said.

The President has laid down a challenge to Congress which it cannot ignore. The American people should demand of its Congress that it start prompt action on a bipartisan program with the President to solve our critical energy emergency.

Keep the Fed free

on election

THE U.S. HOUSE of Representatives is playing with economic and political fire in considering two bills to restrict the independence of the Federal Reserve Board.

One of the measures would require the President to ration credit and the other would require the Fed to increase the money supply and thus lower interest rates. Federal Reserve Chairman Arthur

F Burns strongly opposes both bills, with good reason.

Burns warns that if Congress orders the Fed to lower interest rates it could cause an explosive expansion of money and credit which could drive interest rates higher. The Fed, exercising its independent judgment, has already taken some actions to lower interest rates and Burns has demonstrated that the Fed is willing to do all it can to battle inflation and recession.

Of equal, if not greater, concern is the bill to allocate credit, a proposal Treasury Secretary William E. Simon opposes on the grounds it would create a "credit police state." Establishing a precedent for non-economic decisions on the uses of credit would lead to politicalization of the Federal Reserve system.

The independence of the Federal Reserve system provides a needed balance in our economic maneuverings. Politics and the confusions of politicians already weigh too heavily in economic affairs. We certainly do not need Congressional intrusion into the operations of the Fed.

We urge the Congress to keep the Fed free.

THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

Published by
THE TIMES HERALD PRINTING COMPANY
1101 PACIFIC AVE., DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

JAS. F. CHAMBERS, JR.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

TOM JOHNSON
PUBLISHER

ROBERT S. MARKER..... PRESIDENT
KENNETH P. JOHNSON..... V.P. & EXECUTIVE EDITOR
FELIX R. MCKNIGHT..... VICE CHAIRMAN
ROBERT HOLLINGSWORTH..... VICE PRES. & GEN. MGR.
DOUGLAS WEBB..... V.P. & CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
GEORGE JOHNSON..... SR. VICE PRESIDENT
JAS. C. McCLUNG..... VICE PRESIDENT PRODUCTION
ROBERT SOLENDER..... VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN WOLF..... ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
KENNETH SMART..... ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BILL J. POWELL..... CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
RICHARD SPAHN..... PRODUCTION MANAGER
BERT HOLMES..... ASSOCIATE EDITOR
COURTENAY MATHEY..... CONTROLLER-BUDGET DIRECTOR

Edwin Kiest, Publisher 1896-1941

Tom C. Gooch, Publisher 1941-1952

John W. Runyon, Publisher 1952-1967

Ford's Visit an Exercise in Strategy

By ED N. WISHCAMPER
Editor, Reporter-News

HOUSTON — President Ford's visit to Houston can be scored as a skillful exercise in public relations and political strategy to bring pressure on Congress to act on the energy crisis — even if it does not adopt his own controversial program.

Indeed, there were signs that indicated that he knows full well his own program will not pass Congress exactly as he laid it out.

But some remedial action for the energy crisis he is determined to have from Congress.

Excursions into the country such as the one last week to Atlanta, to Houston Monday and Tuesday morning, and on to Topeka, Kans., later Tuesday carry the battle to Congress by carrying it to the people.

He implied as much in remarks concluding his address to a huge assembly of Houston and Southwestern business, industry and oil leaders Monday afternoon:

"One of the fundamental principles of democracy is that decision, direction and deed do not come down from rules and regulations and bureaucratic paperwork — but up from the millions of its citizens."



Wishcamper

Here, as well as in Atlanta and Topeka, he was applying the stimulus to get action for decision "up from the millions of citizens."

Consider how well he touched all the bases here.

He addressed more than 600 persons in the Monday afternoon energy-economic conference sponsored by the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

His talk was carried live on television at least throughout the populous Houston area of the state.

Then while he went to his suite to court Texas Republican Party stalwarts he left behind four of his top energy-economic experts to brief the same audience in greater detail on both his energy and economic programs, which are intertwined. After each had spoken, they responded to questions.

Monday night he had a "working dinner" with the governors of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

Afterward — at 11 o'clock at night — the governors trooped down to the Shamrock Hilton Hotel grand ballroom, which had been set up as a press center, for a news conference to tell what had happened in their meeting with the president.

Finally, to cap off the busy Houston visit, he had a private breakfast Tuesday morning with newspaper and broadcast executives invited from the Southwestern states. About 80 responded to his invitation and some were noted in the crowd from as far away as New Orleans, El Paso and Amarillo.

News Analysis

Exposure?

A massive amount.

That does not at all imply, of course, that everyone who saw and heard him agreed with everything he said and proposes.

But he got the attention of a huge audience reaching far out into the five states involved.

The most distinct impression this editor brought away from the Houston activities was that he was made his pitch and now stands ready to compromise.

He was at his most dramatic when he held up for his Monday afternoon ballroom audience and television viewers, and again Tuesday morning at breakfast, a copy of his own bill—167 pages—which presents a specific program to Congress and he read the title:

"To increase domestic energy supplies and availability, to restrain energy demand, and to prepare for energy

emergencies and for other purposes."

Then he held up another document:

"Now I have in my hand here the bill the Congress has been working on since Jan. 14 — four pages — and let me read the title of what the Congressional action calls for: "To suspend, for a 90-day period, the authority of the President under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act."

He asked:

"Which makes more sense — a program that is comprehensive, put together for the purpose of conservation and for increased production or, a piece of legislation of four pages suspending the power of the President to do anything about the problem?"

The message was clear: nobody has offered an energy program but him.

At breakfast he said of his controversial energy bill, "it was like a 2 by 4 I hit Congress over the head with and got its attention to turn out a legislative program during this quarter. To get it, I put the tariff (on imported oil) on."

Whatever else his political critics think of him now, no one is saying any longer President Ford is bland and indecisive while the country is drifting without leadership.

He has, as he implies got everybody's attention whether they all agree with him or not.

ABILENE REPORTER NEWS

2/12/75



FELIX R. MCKNIGHT

The mission of two men

TWO MEN almost grimly tuned to their economy-energy mission—the President of the United States and his Interior secretary—have visited restless Texas these past few days and now have flown to other target areas.

General consensus? President Ford didn't score too many conversions, nor did he lose points simply because of his homey honesty in three appearances.

But he left behind for two days a free-swinging cleanup hitter in Interior Secretary Rogers Morton who has caused some second thinking among the oil industry and the media.

FIFTEEN POUNDS leaner, intent and preoccupied with the twin dilemmas of a dragging economy and little progress on solutions to the dollar-draining oil imports, President Ford swung heavily in presenting his program to 600 businessmen, five oil state governors and a small cluster of media executives.

He looked very much like the average concerned man standing there in blue shirt, muted red tie and dark business suit before the Houston breakfast group of newspaper and broadcast leaders. No small talk; no attempt at levity.

He came to oil-oriented Texas, he said, "to hear from editors and broadcasters outside of Washington." He had been in Congress long enough, he said, to know there would be disagreement but he would welcome input from the group.

NOT AS salesman, not as the over-

powering figure of a President, he patiently went through his buffeted program of oil import tariffs that he knew had been editorially opposed by many he faced.

Not so patiently he took prodding swipes at the Congress for foot-dragging inaction. If Congress acted quickly with a substantive program, he said, he would remove the netting tariff directive.

"If they don't—they stay on." And the bracing of his jaw indicated that he was ready to go down to the wire with them.

"We think we have the votes to sustain a veto"—if Congress votes, as it is, to impose a 90-day moratorium on his program while it molds its counter program.

HE WARNED that "we are getting in more and more trouble because of the whims and fancies of the foreign oil producers" and that if we do nothing to structure a definitive program for the next decade, "we will be in a highly dangerous, vulnerable position."

The challenging mood became even more obvious when he switched to the harassing of energy-dependent Northeastern states now stalling federal offshore drilling programs.

He detailed the "vigorous opposition" of the Atlantic coastal states. "They don't want refineries, they fight nuclear power projects. Many oppose offshore drilling efforts and they strongly oppose changes in the Clean Air Act that would

permit orderly change from oil to coal fuels. It makes you wonder what they do want . . ."

Not so gentle in fast-swinging trips to major Texas newspaper editorial rooms was Secretary Morton.

A massive man of six feet, six inches whose persuasiveness is as overwhelming as his physical frame, Sec. Morton laid it out in the delicate cross between a Phi Beta Kappa scholar and a Texas range wrangler.

IF YOU DIDN'T get the Ford economy-energy program from his scholarly walk-through of the President's 167-page plan (which he did adequately in 10 minutes) he could brief the opposition with:

"Dammit, let's put it this way. Most of the guts, the individual initiative, are located between the two mountain ranges of this country—the Rockies on the West and the Appalachians on the East. The other people are opposed to everything. They don't want to do much of anything . . . You Texans ought to know what I'm talking about."

The Ford-Morton tandem slept little in Texas. It went that way for 48 hours while much of the Congress was out on brief vacation.

The "take-it-to-the-people" crusade was brittle and relentless. At week's end, the senators and the representatives were scurrying back to Washington.

(Felix R. McKnight is vice chairman of The Times Herald.)

On The Road

Even critics — and there are many — of President Ford's economic and energy proposals must admit that it takes courage for him to take his ideas to the people, as he did Monday and Tuesday in Houston.

It takes courage because many of the people Ford has been talking to are critics of various aspects of his proposals.

The President has met with more than a dozen governors in the last couple of weeks — including Gov. Dolph Briscoe during the Houston visit — and found all of them critical of at least portions of his package.

We are glad to see a president confronting his critics and listening to their theories in an attempt to find common grounds for agreement. This is far superior to trying to cram ideas down the public's throat.

Ford is a personable, easy-going man who gets across his points well. Even his critics must admit that he is sincere and is trying to do the right thing.

Because the President is willing to have a dialogue with those who disagree with him, we believe compromise can be achieved in the end.

2/12/75

Ford Gives In

President Ford and Congress are going to be battling each other enough over economic and energy proposals without getting into a fight over Ford's plan to make the poor pay more for food stamps.

That realization — coupled with the fact Congress might have overridden a veto — surely played a major role in Ford's decision to let a bill freezing food stamp costs become effective without his signature.

Regardless of his motives, we are glad the President gave in on this issue. Sticking those least able to pay with additional food costs would have been unfair and inhumane.

We hope both the President and Congress can display the same sense of conciliation during the coming debates over economic and energy matters.

2/15/75

2/12/75

'Get Moving on Energy'**Mr. Ford in Houston**

President Gerald Ford believes in his administration's energy proposals, and feels strongly enough about their value that he is making the modern - day equivalent of "whistle - stop tours" to take his message to the people of the United States — first in Atlanta, Ga., and this week in Houston, Tex., and Topeka, Kan.

The President met with representative of this area's news media, including The Shreveport Times, at a breakfast in Houston Tuesday morning. He appeared to be relaxed and comfortable in his surroundings, fielding newsmen's questions easily and pounding away at the need to move on the administration's energy package.

Strong Sense of Urgency

Even in his relaxation, though, the President appeared to have a strong sense of urgency when discussing a need for action. At one point, in describing U.S. dependence on imported oil, he used the words "dangerous vulnerability" and stressed the need to be free from reliance on foreign oil for U.S. energy.

Administration proposals to accomplish that aim have been roundly criticized by the heavily Democratic 94th Congress, where the House voted last week to delay the President's proposed tariff on foreign oil.

In Houston, where the President also met with state officials, Republican leaders and oil industry spokesmen, reaction to the administration proposals was courteous and polite, but mixed. Many of those who met with the President were hesitant to give full agreement: four of the five governors of Southwestern states disagreed with parts of the program; several area oilmen criticized parts of the President's program rather strongly.

Reactions to the administration proposals in Houston were not as favorable as the response the President received in Atlanta, which was to be expected, according to one administration official. By coming to Houston, the President headed straight to the heart of America's oil and gas industry. Here, because of the intense Louisiana - Texas interest in oil, there is much concern over the effects any energy proposals might have on the U.S. petroleum industry.

Three Phases Gain Attention

Three phases of the program which received much attention were the need for deregulation of natural gas prices, an end to two - tier oil pricing and the retention of the depletion allowance, but the administration spokesmen did not go into great detail in their discussion of individual phases, preferring instead to emphasize the great need for some kind of action, right now.

The President was persistently critical of Congress, which he said up to now "has spent all of its time on a four - page bill" which would not meet the needs or accomplish the purposes that the administration plan would.

He hammered away at the urgent need for Congress to get moving on the energy problem, and told newsmen that if Congress

did not like his program it should be prepared to solve the energy crisis with a program of its own.

The Texas and Louisiana news officials, who have seen their state's offshore oil developments supplying much of the United States' petroleum needs for several years; quite naturally were interested in knowing the President's attitude toward the eastern states and their reluctance to approve continental shelf oil drilling in the Atlantic. The eastern states are greatly dependent on imported oil, and would be the hardest hit if another Arab oil embargo should be carried out, yet these states have loudly opposed development of known oil reserves off their own shores.

The President was critical of those states and said that they, too, must begin to help out if America is to free itself from dependence on foreign oil. At one point he said, "It's pretty hard to find out just what they do want," adding that in one recent meeting he found only one of nine governors who would be willing to have an oil refinery located in his state.

Will Win the Battle

Interior Secretary Rogers Morton, who accompanied the President to Houston, described the eastern states' attitude in much the same way as the President had. Morton also indicated that, one way or another, offshore drilling in the Atlantic will be accomplished. "I feel we are going to win this battle, even if we have to go to the courts to do so," Morton said.

A sideline topic of the conference dealt with administration plans for stimulating the economy in the private sector. Dr. Sidney Jones, counselor to Treasury Secretary William Simon, stated that it was here, in the private sector of business, that economic recovery must take place. He set the timetable for a turnaround in the private sector at midyear of 1975, possibly this fall.

Generally, then, the President's Houston discussion was a reiteration of his earlier energy statements. Specifics were not part of the talks, nor was there much new information. He came to Houston, just as he went to Atlanta and Topeka, to push for an attitude, a spirit, that can be summed up as "We can work it out."

There certainly can be little argument over the need for coordination and cooperation now — immediately — to get a program moving on the matter of energy conservation and development. Whether the program is one devised by the Ford administration, the Congress or whoever else might create a workable plan, the nation must get moving to pull away from dependence on imported oil and to further develop our own domestic energy resources.

The Times commends President Ford for personally taking his energy program to the people, hearing their suggestions and responding to their criticisms. He, apparently, was pleased by the Houston reaction, describing it as "excellent and wholesome."

And we are in full agreement that the time for action is now.

'Dog-in-the-Manger Bill'**Blocking the Oil Tariff**

"This is a dog - in - the - manger bill," said Rep. John B. Anderson, R-Ill., in opposing a House measure to suspend President Ford's oil import tariff, "you want to have your cake and eat it too."

Anderson then went on to add that the House Democrats wanted to stop the President's program to cut down on oil use but did not have a program of their own.

Sensible though Anderson's arguments may have been, they were to little avail as 267 Democrats and 42 Republicans voted to suspend the President's right to levy a tariff on imported oil while only 16 Democrats and 98 Republicans upheld his right to do so.

Shortly thereafter, as if to emphasize the lack of urgency in cutting down on the use of oil, the House took a 10 - day recess. It will return on Feb. 18.

The Senate, in the meantime during the recess period, thought the House action urgent enough to put the bill into committee. Scheduled for action Tuesday, the Senate Finance Committee couldn't muster a quorum. It did meet on Wednesday, though, and approved the House measure by an 11-2 vote. The full Senate, in all probability, will concur in removing the presidential authority to impose the import oil tariff.

The President is certain to veto the congressional action. Almost equally certain is that Congress will succeed in overriding the veto.

The congressional action on the President's oil import tariff is typical of what has been going on in all phases of the energy program and in the recession - inflation struggles.

These major problems are inextricably linked together and the Executive and Legislative branches are at loggerheads in their approach to them.

In most cases the President has propounded programs to deal with them and the Congress has derided the proposals but has not come up with concrete counter-proposals. What few plans the Congress did advance seemed to be in the "throw enough money at 'em and they'll go away" mode.

The President's fiscal budget for 1976, for example, called for expenditures of \$349.4 billion, projecting a deficit of \$51.9 billion.

"The trouble with the Ford budget," said Sen. Walter Mondale, D - Minn., "is that he listened to those Republicans who still pray to the god of balanced budgets." He added that the economy could tolerate a much bigger deficit than \$52 billion.

Similarly, the President's calls for cutbacks in social welfare programs — massive giveaways instituted by previous financially irresponsible Congresses — met with derisive comments by major congressional figures.

Numerous Democratic congressmen have come up with proposals on energy and economics but they disagree with each other except for the "spend - spend" theme.

On the same day that the President's budget was released, Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., presented his own economic and energy program. It would cut 1975 income taxes far more than the Ford plan — \$29 billion as compared to \$16 billion — without the revenue - recapturing gasoline tax proposed by the administration.

Jackson's plan suggests price controls on domestic oil and gas, gives standby authority for price and income controls and offers a selective business investment tax credit of 10 per cent.

The likelihood is that the Senate will come up with a patchwork economic and energy plan that it will attempt to ram through and it may succeed in becoming law with the large Democratic majority in Congress.

The Times has stated before that it can see some flaws in the proposals advanced by the President but, barring something far and undisputably better coming out of the congressional chambers, we think the statement made by Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D - Ill., in discussing the oil import tariff bill, about sums up our viewpoint:

"I believe that if we in the Congress are going to oppose the President's program at this most critical time, we should oppose it only if we are able to substitute a positive program of our own."

Why Shouldn't He Travel?

The Issue: Is President Ford right in taking his views on the state of the nation directly to the people by making appearances in various cities outside Washington, D.C.?

President Ford has been taking his views on energy and economy directly to the people by visiting such places as Atlanta, Houston and New Orleans in this area. Democratic Sen. Hubert Humphrey says that's bad. He believes the President should stay in Washington.

We think President Ford is absolutely right in getting away from the highly partisan, politics-ridden Capital City and breathing some of the fresher air of the South, the Midwest and the Far West. We would like to cite some figures for Sen. Humphrey's edification. According to the last census there were 203,211,926 persons in the United States of which 756,510 live in the District of Columbia. That leaves 202,455,416 of us outside Washington, D.C. We believe that it's a good idea for the President to expose himself to some of the 200-odd million of us who pay the bills for most of those who reside in Washington.

It's all right for a President to leave Washington and visit Camp David, or Hyannisport or a ranch in Stonewall, Tex., so long

as he sits by the fire and doesn't let the yokels see him or let the reporters out in the boondocks ask any questions. But why not Atlanta and Houston?

Sen. Humphrey says that instead of running around the country, President Ford should remain in Washington and talk to Congress. As of right now we're not at all impressed with what the Congress has done to ease the recession-inflation problem. Most of



what we've heard has been criticism of President Ford's plan and we haven't seen anything concrete the Congress has come up with.

The nation wants action not debate. Perhaps it would be a good idea if Sen. Humphrey left the narrow but vocal sound and fury of D.C. and asked the people what they think.

Thursday Evening, February 13, 1975

Life is the game that must be played; This truth at least, good friends, we know. So live and laugh nor be dismayed, as one by one the phantoms go. — Edwin A. Robinson, American Biblical scholar.

Let's rally behind President

Tuesday was an exciting day for Topekans and other Kansans.

For nine hours, we played host to the President of the United States. Thousands of us saw him; hundreds shook his hand. Nearly everyone in the area watched him on television against familiar Topeka backgrounds.

Gerald Ford's visit brought a glow to Topeka, despite the damp cold. For a day, this state capital in middle America was at the center of national events.

As we observed the President, we came to realize how diligently he is working as a salesman for the program he believes will end the energy problem and cure inflation and recession. He spent a long, hard day at it here Tuesday.

He rode in the damp cold from Forbes Air Field, standing in his open-top car. He stood in 29 degree weather on the Statehouse steps to urge Kansans to work together to cure the economy. With scarcely a pause, he went on to address the Kansas Legislature, where he announced two new programs — release of impounded highway funds to spur the construction industry and a plan to rebate part of the cost of farm fuels. He presented arguments in be-

half of his economic and energy program.

At a long "working luncheon" with 10 governors, seven of them Democrats, he continued to discuss his policies and his program. Some governors remained hostile, though most appeared impressed by at least part of his plan.

Later, at the news conference, he answered questions about his program, saying it is the only specific, complete and detailed one yet presented. If Congress comes up with a detailed plan, he said, he will consider it, but so far its only action is a bill to stop his oil tariff boost, without a substitute to help control oil use.

The President's visit convinces us he believes thoroughly in his program and he knows action must be taken quickly to save the economy.

It is always easier to find fault with a plan of action than to suggest a workable alternative. So far no such substitute has been advanced.

It's time for citizens and Congress to rally behind President Ford as we supported earlier presidents in time of depression and war. When we did, we found it easier to solve our problems. It could be so this time, too.

D

When Jerry Ford Seeks a Better Idea, He Listens

By PAUL HEALY

Washington, Feb. 27—"Jerry Ford listens."

That is the comment about the President heard most often throughout one of his exhausting roadshows, such as the one Tuesday and Wednesday in Florida.

As he moves from one regional group to another, Ford bears down with a hard sell, in speeches and press conferences, for his antirecession and energy plans, which are now languishing in Congress. But in private meetings, he does more listening than talking.

People Aren't Tongue-Tied

If anyone wonders why this should be surprising in a President, he need only recall our last two. Lyndon Johnson would go eyeball-to-eyeball, but he was a champion monologist. Richard Nixon had no place in his private world for one-on-one dialogues.

H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, Nixon's chief of staff, used to defend his policy of protecting the President from talkers by insisting that most persons "aren't very articulate in the presence of the

President." But in troubled times like these people are not all that shy.

Ford talked shop with 15 mayors from seven Southern states for nearly three hours Tuesday night in Hollywood, Fla. Several of the mayors afterward told reporters — first at a briefing and later at a hotel bar — that the mayors were most impressed by the



way Ford looked them in the eye, solicited their ideas and obviously absorbed what they were saying.

The mayors' point was that most top public officials are gazing out of the window, or fidgeting, when others talk to them and are waiting only to get it all over with.

Said John Ford, Black Democratic mayor of Tuskegee, Ala., "I really feel it is very instrumental for the President of this country to come forward and sit down in a very open way with local officials. We are in a much better position than those in Washington to be able to relate to the President, and his advisers, just what the problems are."

It was not Ford caused President Ford's

men to beam when the mayor then promised: "We are going to encourage our congressional leadership from the South to really get some action in Congress."

The next morning, President Ford talked at length over the breakfast table with 36 heads of regional newspapers, newspaper chains and broadcasting companies. Many of the media heads later said that they were impressed with his grasp of the energy and economic problems and his eagerness to hear all views. One can easily imagine these news executives going to lunch back home and bragging to their colleagues, "and then I told the President . . ."

Ford does seem able to relate easily to any level of discussion, whether he is golfing with Jack Nicklaus or holding a seminar with eminent scholars. Robert A. Goldwin, the White House's resident intellectual, who set up three such seminars with Ford, reports that the President spends most of his time at them "listening and questioning — and it was his questions that proved he was listening."

Ford is also making brownie points regionally by holding out-of-town press conferences, a practice not favored by previous Presidents. In each city, local

reporters are given equal time with White House correspondents during the questioning. Ford's bland answers seldom make hot news, but then he doesn't spend much time preparing for the quizzes, either.

For example, Ford spent only an hour huddling with a handful of aides before yesterday's press conference in Hollywood, Fla. Nixon often spent an entire day agonizing over his answers to probable questions.

The President may be effective in his current barnstorming around the nation, but is there any evidence that his trips are building support on Capitol Hill for his programs? A top White House official who made the Florida trip points out that it normally takes six to eight weeks of repetitive hammering before the people can be moved to prod Congress.

This official claimed that the White House is just beginning to see signs that Ford is succeeding in his drive to make the nation aware that first, there is an energy problem; second, that Congress is doing nothing about it; and, third, that the President is. These signs come from White House mail and conversations around the country, he said.

The Miami Herald

JOHN S. KNIGHT, Editorial Chairman

JAMES L. KNIGHT, Chairman

LEE HILLS, Publisher ALVAH H. CHAPMAN, Jr., President DON SHOEMAKER, Editor BEVERLY R. CARTER, Gen. Mgr.
GEORGE BEEBE, Associate Publisher LARRY JINKS, Executive Editor JOHN D. PENNEKAMP, Associate Editor
RON MARTIN, Managing Editor

6-A

Thursday, February 27, 1975

The Visitor Has His Itinerary -- Where Is Congress Headed?

PRESIDENTIAL visits to South Florida are nothing new, really. But Mr. Ford's personally led task force has wound up its two-day maneuver with a wondrously warm difference in style — a difference that deserves a vive la, in our view.

This President was accessible. He came, he saw, he listened. He did not conquer but he did not come to conquer. Only to lobby for his energy and economic programs and to expose himself and high administration officials to questions, suggestions and some reverse lobbying from interested citizens — lay, political and business.

Not all the answers were complete, but the questions and suggestions — ranging from the need for steam-powered cars to the non-need for government involvement with condominiums — received a respectful hearing-out. There was a touch of the town hall meeting about it that has rarely been evident in Big Government.

As a speaker, Mr. Ford comes off more as sincere than expert, and he found bad news as well as good news. Typically, the bad news first, regarding a proposed 16-cent gas tax increase; the good news that at least the Congress

seemed to be getting close to doing something.

(Perhaps: almost as soon as it surfaced, the 16-cent provision was shot down as being from an "old draft." Inoperative, in other words. House Ways and Means is now tinkering with another plan that might increase the gas tax 50 cents in five years. Maybe. Specifics are perishable in the Congress these days.)

That Mr. Ford apparently has the votes to sustain a veto of the bill that would delay his increase in oil import taxes indicates the President is gaining strength — through the Congress by way of public opinion which has shifted toward his view that action is due. Overdue, in fact.

If the Democratic majorities in Congress have alternatives to the President's programs they must get them all together and lay them out so everybody can take a look. Pot-shooting the President's proposals without offering specifics of their own is wearing thin with the people.

The momentum, then, is with President Ford. His visit here, as elsewhere, has left an impression that this Chief Executive, blessedly, is a straightforward and honest man who may not have all the answers but is seeking them doggedly. Given a basis, a starting point, he can and will compromise with the Congress on the best course to pursue in a time that is increasingly perilous. And short.



Ford

SOFT EGGS, SOFT ROLLS, SOFT WORDS

Just a Simple Breakfast With the President

By **DON SHOEMAKER**
Editor of The Herald

HOLLYWOOD — When Herbert Hoover descended the grand staircase of the White House to convene a state dinner, so it is written, he was introduced with a great flare of trumpets.

When Gerald Ford entered the Capitol room of the Diplomat hotel early yesterday morning to preside over an intrastate breakfast of media honchos, he simply ambled through the door, hand outstretched and a medley of first names (to you) with no side effects whatever.

The 38th and first appointed Presi-

dent of the United States will be 62 on July 14.

He is the very picture of physical fitness — flat tummy, an unlined face, better than average hair for his years, no freckles on his hands and a firm voice.

Michigan's once (1934) most valuable player, who will speak in a moment, has not forgotten either his homework or his push-ups. And his manner is easy, much like your friendly congressman who used to send you free packages of garden seeds.

THE breakfast is middle America but tasty, and a little late for Miami-ans who got up long before the creak of dawn to drive here. Some of us arrived so early that we discombobulated the Secret Service, the hotel service, and a few unstarved White



Shoemaker



VIEWPOINT PAGE

House aides who were handing out credentials to 40-odd Floridians and monitoring the table settings.

First, some Florida OJ and coffee, off to the side. Then, at the President's table and others, a bit of fruit, a roll and ham and eggs.

No seconds. Nor are any needed. Ron Nessen reminds later that food costs money and you'll be sent a bill (which you won't) for 30 per cent of the price, which is a pretty good extractive depletion allowance for editors and publishers. Ron is Mr. Ford's

personable press secretary. He notes that the other Ron, Nixon's Ron, is getting \$3,000 per appearance, and perhaps he should. But . . .

The President eats discreetly, doing the athlete's push-back, charges his pipe, talks lightly about Michigan and settles back for a signal from Ron. A microphone is placed at his table, but he doesn't use it. A Manhattan telephone book sized energy report is placed in front of him, but he doesn't need it.

The Presidential pitch is brief and

familiar: The need for Congress to get a move on or we won't have a tax bill and 1974 rebates before June 1; the plentitude of oil but the fact that it is only a reservoir and we must conserve now to get geared up for new energy sources; the simplicity of his program compared with the "Christmas tree" legislation which Congress is dressing up for adoption; the fairness and dynamism of his tax program, etc.

Save for some Florida applications of the oil problem wrapped up here for perhaps the first time, there is nothing new save the manner of delivery.

Mr. Ford so early in the morning had no adjectives for what he considers a dilatory Congress. You see, he's been that route and knows how the boys dawdle. The public view of a

nettled and even angry President is not the private one.

Most speakers who communicate favor the question-and-answer routine and Mr. Ford is here, too, to listen. The questions also are familiar.

The old Wolverine center does not have all the answers, but neither does he fake any plays. He passes back to Interior Secretary Rogers Morton, also once a congressman, to Bill Seidman, a chief White House aide, to Nesser and others present for details.

But the essentials are a litany and delivered with the confidence of an old Champion of the West. One has to be impressed by the style and strategy of this press agency to rally the country behind a President the people like but measure short at his job.

FORD and Co. have met with the media people previously in Topeka, Houston and Atlanta. This is a part of a large-scale public relations program in Washington and on the road known on the receiving end as getting "Baroodied." The terms comes from the hard-sell tactics of Bill Baroody, a White House factotum and advance man: "To be "Baroodied," explains Dennis Farney in The Wall Street Journal, is "to be zonked — overwhelmed by an avalanche of Baroody's information, bombast, and propaganda."

But Mr. Baroody wasn't at breakfast. The eggs were soft. So were the rolls.

Gerald Ford is a nice guy of the tribe that is supposed to finish last. But he gets across. Mostly, I would say, he got me although, mostly, I was already there.

John S. Knight had the first question and, as usual, the last word. Before we stood to applaud the President (who had looked a little embarrassed by the effusive greeting he received when we were first seated), JSK reminded the President that he would need to go down stairs and meet the "real press."

That means the working press. For what worked out later, please turn to page one.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

JERRY H. JONES

Your memorandum to the President of March 4 regarding letters, editorials, and columns from recent trips has been reviewed and the following notation was made:

-- Helpful. Encouraging. Thanks.

cc: Don Rumsfeld