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APR 29 1976

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

MEMORANDUM FOR: James Cannon
Richard Cheney
Alan Greenspan
Robert Hartmann
John Marsh ✓
Ronald Nessen
Brent Scowcroft
William Seidman
John Veneman

FROM: James T. Lynn

SUBJECT: Spring Planning Review for the Fiscal Year 1978
Budget

APR 29 1976
File

The first step in the development of the 1978 budget is now underway. We will be holding spring review sessions next week and during the month of May to discuss individual agency targets for fiscal year 1978 and 1979. After the review sessions, we will make recommendations to the President and seek his direction. In July, the planning process will culminate in letters to the agencies giving them guidance on their fall budget submissions.

Your contributions and suggestions to the planning of the 1978 budget are welcome and solicited. You and your staff may desire to provide information or to advance ideas concerning these preliminary plans for the 1978 budget. We also recognize that you may wish to consult with OMB on our views or those of the agencies. In whatever way you choose to make your contributions, they will be most effective if they reach us either before or in the appropriate spring planning review session. The schedule for the review is attached. If you or your staffs wish to attend any of the sessions, the secretary of the review (Lee Mosedale, ext. 4884) will be glad to supply you in advance with the materials to be discussed.

Should you desire additional information, please let me know.

Attachment



1978 SPRING PLANNING REVIEW SCHEDULE
FOR ORAL SESSIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR

APRIL

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	MAY 1
				Commerce, SBA, USPS	

MAY

3 10:00a.m. NASA	4	5	6	7	8
			Treasury, CSC		
10 Interior, Corps of Eng EPA, TVA	11 Defense	12	13 Veterans Affairs	14	15
	Defense	Security Assistance			
17 Labor	18	19	20	21 DOT	22
Develop- mental Assistance	Income Maintenance	Health	Education	HUD	
24 FEA, Energy Policy	25 Justice, GSA	26	27	28	29
ERDA, Energy R&D	Agriculture				
31			JUNE 3 Overview		
			Overview		

10:00 a.m.

2:15 p.m.

Copy

November 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHARLIE LEPPERT
FROM: JACK MARSH

In reference to the attached, requests of this nature should be deferred and resubmitted next week. However, we have guidance that during the Budget review period currently underway requests of this type should not be encouraged.

Until such time as the review process is concluded, I would suggest the requests be discouraged but done in such a way that there is not an implied promise that the appearance will be granted after the review. This is because the President has a very heavy schedule already in December and will be leaving about mid-month for Vail.

memos from Charlie re McCloskey, Tim Lee Carter, Derwinski -- requests to see the President

JOM/dl





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

DATE: 12/27/76

TO: Jack Marsh
FROM: Jim Lynn

This was sent to the
President in Vail last week.

Attachment

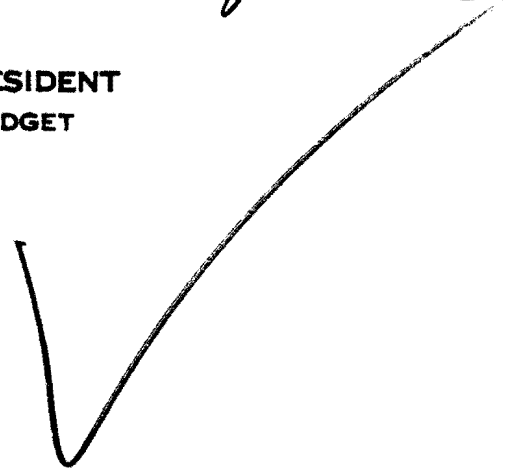


Jack Marsh



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 23 1976



ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: James T. Lynn (Signed)
SUBJECT: Unveiling the Fiscal Year '78 Budget

I. ISSUE

Given the need for planning and arranging the necessary details, it would be helpful if a decision could be reached on the level of visibility which you would like to give to the unveiling of the Fiscal Year '78 Budget.

II. OPTIONS

1. A Presidential press briefing

Pro:

-- Given the time and effort which you have personally devoted to its preparation, a Presidential briefing would demonstrate the importance which you attach to your final budget.

-- A briefing on the budget could also serve as the occasion for your last Presidential press conference.

-- If the briefing were to take place in the evening, it could well be covered by live TV. This would enable you to speak directly to the Nation on a variety of matters -- budgetary and otherwise.

-- Since the Ford budget will serve as a benchmark for many Congressional Republicans, a Presidential budget briefing to the Nation could prove to be invaluable to those Members of Congress who will try to use the Ford budget as their target during the course of the year.



Con:

-- Since some members of the press will persist in viewing this budget as vestigial, it is difficult to anticipate the nature of the questioning.

-- Depending on the final budget figures, it is possible that the press will focus on any differences which may materialize between the budget and statements made during the course of the campaign (e.g. balancing the budget in FY '79).

-- The press could choose to play down the substance of the occasion and seek instead to emphasize stylistic elements, with inevitable comparisons between this year's briefing and last year's briefing.

-- If the budget briefing is also your last press conference, the budget may be only a minor facet of the questioning. (This is not necessarily a "Con").

-- If the final budget numbers are higher than we would have liked them to be, certain Members of Congress may prefer that the budget unveiling be handled in low key fashion with little public attention.

-- If the briefing is to be "live" (not embargoed like last year) and the press is given the budget on the prior Saturday on an embargoed basis (which should be done), they will have had a lot of time to think up more questions, particularly on details. This could take away time from broader issues you may want to emphasize.

Sub-Options - Time.

1a. Evening.

-- A weekday evening press conference, if covered by TV, would get broadest audience.

1b. Morning, Monday or Tuesday (depending again on your schedule preferences).

-- A morning briefing would be deemed budget-oriented but might be easier vis-a-vis getting three network coverage. (Consult Nessen).



Sub-Options - Distribution of the Budget

- 1a. Short lead time for advance embargoed distribution to the press, e.g., distribution the morning preceding an evening Presidential briefing or late afternoon distribution preceding a Presidential briefing the next morning.

Pro:

-- This would minimize the risks of a broken embargo.

-- Since advance press distribution triggers other advance distributions, there will be less time for copies of the budget to be in circulation.

-- Less time for "experts" to develop "nitty gritty" questions which can take time from broader issues.

Con:

-- Traditionally the press has been given more time to study the budget in preparation for the briefing. They will be angered by a short time fuse. (It should be noted that the record of the press in not breaking the embargo -- even with 36 to 48 hour advance distribution -- has been excellent).

- 1b. Traditional 36 to 48 hour lead time for advance, embargoed distribution to the press.

Pro:

-- The press will have adequate time to prepare their copy for release time.

Con:

-- With other distributions triggered by the press distribution, there will be copies of the budget around town well before the Presidential briefing, providing more time potentially for the embargo to be broken.

-- With lead time, the press will be well-prepared and the questioning could involve minutiae.

Whichever sub-option is chosen, other distributions will be triggered by the decision.

- a. Simultaneous to press distribution on an embargoed basis, advance copies would be sent on an embargoed basis to the Congressional Leadership and Committee Chairmen, with the Budget, Appropriations, and Joint Economic Committees receiving extra copies beyond the Chairmen's copy.

- b. Bulk distribution to the Congress would be made shortly before official transmission, e.g., the morning of your press conference (assuming live, not embargoed) if held in morning or late afternoon if evening press conference.
- c. Transition Team: In the spirit of continuing cooperation, it is proposed that the OMB Director-designate be given a limited number of embargoed copies to distribute to the transition team as he deems appropriate. I would be inclined to do this quite early, say a week before.

2. An OMB Director's press briefing

This would be a traditional (excluding last year) press briefing on the budget. It would probably be held Saturday morning, January 15, on an embargoed basis (for release Monday), with official transmittal of the budget scheduled for noon on Monday.

3. No press briefing

Copies of the budget could merely be distributed to the press, with no briefing. This option has not been developed, since too much time and effort has been expended to allow the budget to be unveiled without "interpretation."

Beyond the press briefing, given the constraints of time, it would be my recommendation to minimize the wide-scale briefings which were held last year, unless specific requests are received and decisions are made to comply with them. Nonetheless, some briefings will be in order:

-- The traditional OMB "regulars" breakfast on Saturday or Monday hosted by the Director on an embargoed basis. (The "regulars" are a small group of newsmen whose chief beat is OMB/the budget/and the economy).

-- The Congressional Leadership. It is hoped that this could be hosted by you at a convenient time preceding the press briefing.

-- The transition team. In the spirit of cooperation, it would be my intention to brief the OMB Director-designate, either by himself or with a small group of associates, on both policy and



technical matters at a convenient time preceding the press briefing.

-- Other Congressional briefings. These will be handled on a case by case basis if requests are received. Should the House Republican Conference or the Senate Republican Policy Committee request a briefing, we would endeavor to comply on either January 18 or 19.

-- Assuming you do the briefing, I would suggest that we don't have the full array of Cabinet and agency heads at the briefing this year (just Scowcroft, Cannon, Zarb, OMB people in chairs near to you) but that each agency head be available for full briefing on his or her budget at the agency immediately after your briefing.

III. DECISIONS

A. Press Briefing/who and when:

_____ a Presidential press briefing will be held:

1. _____ Monday evening.
2. _____ Monday morning.
3. _____ Other _____

_____ OMB Director should brief the press.

1. _____ Saturday morning.
2. _____ Monday morning.
3. _____ Other _____

_____ No press briefing at all.

B. Distribution of the Budget

1. Press

_____ press should receive their advance, embargoed copies on shortest possible time fuse preceding press conference (8 to 12 hours).



_____ follow traditional course allowing 36 to 48 hours for distribution of advance, embargoed copies.

2. Others

_____ Proceed traditionally:
Advance press distribution will trigger embargoed distribution to Congressional Leadership and specific Congressional Committees; bulk distribution to Congress can be made the day the budget is officially transmitted. Proceed with OMB Director-designate and transition team as you deem appropriate.

_____ Do not proceed traditionally - additional instructions will be forthcoming.

C. Other Briefings:

_____ I agree with your plans to minimize other briefings. Proceed accordingly.

1. _____ I will host the Congressional Leadership briefing.
2. _____ The OMB Director should brief the Congressional Leadership.
3. _____ There is no need for a Congressional Leadership briefing this year.

_____ Duplicate last year's wide scale briefings - work with appropriate personnel to arrange details.

_____ See me.

