

The original documents are located in Box 41, folder “8/28/74 - Press Conference: Question and Answer Briefing Sheets (4)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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22 QUESTION - Italy is in financial trouble. Apparently the Italians have been talking with Germany about financial assistance and Wilbur Mills has suggested that both Germany and Japan give the Italians some aid. Is the United States going to help Italy? Do you give an "expletive deleted" what happens to the Italian lira?

ANSWER - Italy is experiencing financial difficulties which have been greatly exacerbated by a quadrupling of the price of oil. The Italian Government has taken some forceful measures to deal with this problem and recent developments have been most encouraging. I intend to follow developments in Italy with sympathy and friendship. I am concerned with the stability and progress of the Italian economy. The Italian Government has not, however, asked the United States for financial assistance.

QUESTION - What are the next steps in reform of the international monetary system?

ANSWER - The group charged with formal negotiations on monetary reform completed its work in June and agreed on a set of immediate measures of particular importance in the current situation. These measures are now being implemented and form the basis for a cooperative development of the system in the future. We will be working closely with our foreign partners in the weeks and months ahead to ensure the satisfactory operation and evolution of the system.

BACKGROUND - The package of immediate steps agreed in June includes:

- a) Creation of two international committees to ensure that the principle of cooperation is translated into effective action;
- b) Establishment of benchmarks against which to measure the appropriateness of governmental policies in the present situation of international financial uncertainty;
- c) Measures of concrete assistance for countries facing difficult financial problems;
- d) New procedures to guide the operations of the monetary system; and
- e) Action to strengthen the role of the internationally created reserve asset.

18 Q Are you willing to sell large amounts of grain to the USSR, when the US Department of Agriculture has just cut its estimate of the US crop?

A It looks as if the USSR will have a reasonable good crop this year, and their grain stocks are high. So I don't expect them to seek large quantities of US grain this year. But if they do make inquiries, we'll have to study very carefully our own needs and the needs of other countries which are very high.

19 Q What is the status of negotiations with the USSR on LNG (liquified natural gas) projects? Are we going to invest billions of dollars in these ventures, when we can put that money into domestic projects.

A These projects are still very much up in the air. (The North Star Project (Western Siberia) is in a state of "suspension"; negotiations on Eastern Siberia (Yakutsk) are still going on.) Decisions on Project Independence will help determine US policy on the LNG venture.

20 Q Do you think we are in danger of transferring too much technology to the USSR, technology that could endanger our security?

A We are now making a careful review of this subject. We want to steer a middle course. We want our businessmen to have every fair opportunity to do business with the Communist countries. Yet, there are some aspects of technology which we will want to keep at home or export only after careful consideration.

U. S. S. R.

14 Q Mr. President, MFN is evidently an important issue for the Soviets. What do you think of the outlook for US-Soviet trade if a compromise with the Congress on this issue is not forthcoming?

A First, let me say I think a compromise is forthcoming. Growth in US-Soviet trade obviously will be hampered without MFN, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

15 Q Mr. President, what is your attitude toward extending EximBank credits to the USSR when the Soviets have refused to provide information on their foreign exchange and gold as requested by EximBank?

A I would expect them to be more forthcoming, but that will have to be the subject of further discussions between Mr. Casey and their people. And, of course, we'll have to see what sort of trade bill the Congress passes.

16 Q Since the Soviets have greatly improved their payments position as a result of high prices for their oil and gold and their arms sales to the Middle East, what is your attitude toward extending EximBank credits to them?

A In spite of the gains you mentioned, they still seem interested in these credits. In any case, we'll have to see what sort of trade bill the Congress passes.

17 Q If the MFN issue is resolved, will the US buy more oil from the USSR? (US imports of oil from the USSR have risen from \$7 million in 1972 to more than \$100 million thus far in 1974.)

A Yes, if the price is favorable. We want to diversify our sources of supply, and the amounts involved are very small in comparison with our total oil consumption.

*BAUXITE CARTEL

13 Q Major bauxite producers under Jamaica's leadership are seeking to emulate the oil producing countries and raise the price of bauxite. How does the US government view the bauxite producers action?

A In the short-run, the United States and other countries that import bauxite have little choice but to pay the higher taxes. These countries should realize, however, that their action is accelerating research on the use of low-grade ores in which the US is self-sufficient.

PAN-AM FINANCIAL SITUATION

12 Q. Pan Am recently filed a petition with the CAB requesting an interim mail pay subsidy between \$70 and \$100 million. The filing indicated that the Pan Am situation is much worse than previously suspected and that Pan Am could face bankruptcy late this year. Is the government going to bail out Pan Am like it did Lockheed and Penn Central or do you plan to let Pan Am go into bankruptcy?

A. As you know, the Administration has been following the Pan Am situation since early this year when the impact of the dramatic increase in fuel costs became known. At that time an interagency task force was established to consider the financial problems of all of our international carriers. The task force concluded that the Administration should support a subsidy only as a last resort and recommended a series of non-subsidy government actions to improve our carriers' position.

It is now clear that Pan Am's situation is deteriorating faster than expected and that the suggested government actions will not provide relief in time to prevent Pan Am from facing serious financial problems later this year.

I have asked Secretary Brinegar and Bill Eberle to develop a set of options and recommendations with respect to Pan Am which would be cleared with relevant agencies and forwarded to me for a final decision. It is possible that a decision will be required while the Congress is not in session and I have, therefore, asked for the recommendations as soon as reasonably possible so that I can consult with key Congressional members before the end of the session.

So, in direct answer to your question, I will make a decision with respect to the Administration position on Pan Am only after considering all of the options and consulting with the Congress.

CARGO PREFERENCE

(The President's Position has not been defined to date)

11 Q: As you know, oil cargo preference legislation was passed by the House on May 8, 1974, and has been reported out of the Senate Commerce Committee. Basically it requires that 20% initially, and 30% in two years, of our oil imports be carried on U.S.-flag vessels.

The Administration up to now has strongly opposed H.R. 8193, the Energy Transportation Security Act of 1974 (the Cargo Preference Bill). Do you intend to change the policy toward this bill?

A: We strongly support the goal of expanding the U.S. tanker fleet, but we believe that the best means to accomplish this is through the direct subsidy method instituted by the Merchant Marine Act of 1970, which extends direct subsidies to tankers and other bulk carriers. I might point out that this Act, coupled with a record funding level (\$335 million in FY 1974), has created the greatest peacetime shipbuilding boom in U.S. history.

I am opposed to cargo preference legislation because:

- * it violates U.S. international obligations;
- * it is seriously inflationary, both with regard to imported oil and new tanker construction;
- * the additional costs of imported oil would adversely affect the international competitiveness of U.S. industry and U.S. agriculture; and
- * U.S. energy supplies could be reduced by lessening the attractiveness of the U.S. market to independent foreign oil refineries.

I should also point out that all Agencies and Departments have opposed this bill on these grounds.

OUTLOOK ON EXPORT CONTROLS

August 23, 1974

Export Controls

7 Q

The latest crop reports from the Department of Agriculture show large domestic crop losses. Is the Administration considering reimposition of export controls?

A:

While the latest reports are disappointing, we believe the situation is manageable. Last year's export controls were imposed in a totally different situation: (1) the domestic price of commodities was frozen while the world price was rising and (2) last year's production shortfalls were in other countries while this year's is in the United States. Grain production in the rest of the world is expected to be equal or greater than last year's output. Domestic production estimates are somewhat more encouraging following favorable growing weather since August 1. In any event we favor a solution which does not involve export controls and have no plans to establish them, but we are enlisting the cooperation of our major trading partners to insure that U. S. consumers and livestock producers do not bear a disproportionate share of the burden of the world situation. In this regard, we are now closely monitoring both domestic and global crop levels.

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

- 8 Q: The World Food Conference is scheduled to meet this November. In light of the increasing cost of food, what is the U.S. position on providing food aid and maintaining food reserves?
- A: Assurance of world food security is the common responsibility of all countries. The present low level of global grain reserves has made the people of the world dependent for survival on good weather - an intolerable position. The United States is actively engaged in the World Food Conference efforts to insure the availability of adequate food supplies in case of widespread crop failure or natural disaster. The principal theme of our efforts is that the food reserves be adequate and the burden of holding reserves is equally shared among all countries both importers and exporters. I recognize the difficulties we might encounter in the short run in building up reserves, given this year's bad weather. However, we must not let this overshadow the long-term benefits that will be gained from this effort.

9 Q Is the world moving toward a "beggar-thy-neighbor" situation in world trade?

A Countries beset by pressing social, political and economic problems demanding immediate attention often resort to actions and policies which reflect insufficient concern for international implications. The illusive concept of national self-interest sometimes leads to a beggar-thy-neighbor policy. To avoid falling into this trap demands the constant awareness of all of us dealing with national and international issues. This is one of the reasons why the Administration places such high priority on achieving international cooperation and, in the trade area, is actively preparing for participation in multi-lateral trade negotiations. Unilateral actions by nations in the past few years, restricting imports and limiting the export of increasingly scarce resources, have amplified the need for international agreement. The consequences of "beggar-thy-neighbor" policies in social and political terms, can be serious indeed.

Question:

What are we doing to offset our potential trade deficit?

Answer:

To offset the potential trade deficit resulting from the \$10-12 billion addition to the nation's oil bill, the Department of Commerce is:

- Pressing Congress for passage of the trade reform bill and increased lending authority for the Export Import Bank.
- Assisting in the establishment of Joint Commissions with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other Near East countries, aimed at expansion of trade and the overall development of this oil rich region.
- Through joint commissions, trade missions, trade fairs and special project assistance, expanding U. S. sales in the U. S. S. R. and other centralized economy countries.
- Aggressively encouraging smaller U. S. firms to enter the export field through sales efforts by Commerce's 42 field offices across the country.

QUESTION - Do you expect to have to revise upward your expectation of what inflation will be in the final two quarters of 1974 in view of the prediction that retail food prices will rise 4 to 5% instead of decline as had been earlier predicted; in view of the prospect oil prices will rise if decontrolled; and a threatened coal strike would trigger greater demand for gas and oil?

ANSWER - Certainly there are many uncertainties in the inflation outlook, and prospects for the latter part of this year have been somewhat darkened by the farm situation. However, we still expect the rate of advance in prices to slow substantially from the pace of the first half of this year. While this diminution in the rate of inflation will be a welcome development, it will represent only one step toward bringing inflation under control. A long difficult road lies ahead of us.

JMR
James M. Russel
Ext. 5931
Home phone: 229-0595
08/27/74

QUESTION - Is a world recession developing?

ANSWER - INFLATION IS PUBLIC ENEMY #1 FOR BOTH THE U.S. AND WORLD ECONOMY. ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC ACTIVITY SLOWED CONSIDERABLY THROUGHOUT THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, DUE IN PART TO THE OIL SITUATION, THERE IS WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT THAT REDUCED ECONOMIC GROWTH FROM THE VERY HIGH LEVELS OF LAST YEAR IS NEEDED TO CURB THE CURRENT DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION AFFECTING NEARLY ALL COUNTRIES. THERE IS A GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT MODERATE GROWTH WILL RESUME IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR.

W. L. McCamey
W. L. McCAMEY
OASIA EXT. 5623
HOME 565-0373
8/14/74

TREAS

QUESTION - If unemployment rises will it mainly affect married men or other categories of workers? What will the effect be on households?

ANSWER - The unemployment rate has been quite stable so far this year. However, some increase in unemployment may well lie ahead. If so, the greatest effect of such a rise would not be on family bread winners but on teenagers seeking part-time work and on married women. As slack develops in the economy, the rise in rates of unemployment for these groups tends to be greater than for married men. This is not to imply that unemployment does not present a serious problem, but that fluctuations in the overall unemployment rate may present an exaggerated picture of the true impact on households throughout the country.

JMR

James M. Russel
Ext. 5931
Home phone: 229-0595
08/27/74

QUESTION - Do you think there is a danger that business and labor will start playing leap frog -- wages jump over prices then prices jump over wages?

ANSWER - That process is a major factor in this as in all inflationary periods. We can break the pattern, however, if we have responsible fiscal and monetary policies to prevent the economy from boiling over again. We must keep the demands on our economy within its capacity to produce. Under those conditions, the discipline of the marketplace puts effective competitive limits on both wage and price increases.

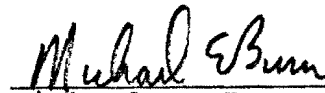
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Edgar R. Fiedler
Ext. 2551
299-3476
August 12, 1974

QUESTION - Are you worried about the financial troubles of some banks?

ANSWER - The banking system is basically sound. Its loans and investments are essentially of good quality, and its liquidity is supported by a sophisticated central banking system. Individual banks may from time to time encounter financial problems, but in most cases they are either resolved internally through corrective actions of the bank and the bank regulators, or are resolved externally through mergers with stronger, better managed institutions. The public is adequately protected by deposit insurance, by the financial support power of the Federal Reserve System and the FDIC, and by strong regulatory powers over the institutions involved.

FURTHER
INFO

- While there is no guarantee that all depositors and creditors will come out unscathed in a bank failure, the goal of the regulators--which is usually attained--is the assumption of all of the deposit liabilities of the failing institution by a stronger bank, with such interim financing and guarantees from the FDIC as may be required in the circumstances. There may even be a return to creditors and shareholders eventually, if the cause of failure is more from a liquidity problem than an asset problem.



Michael E. Burns

X - 8664, 2104

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08/21/74

08/21/74
Jim Smith

C-2

QUESTION - WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS THAT THE MIDWEST DROUGHT WILL SERIOUSLY ADD TO INFLATIONARY PRESSURES? WILL EXPORT DEMAND CONTRIBUTE TO HIGHER PRICES TO THE SAME EXTENT AS THE PAST TWO YEARS?

ANSWER - THE AUGUST 12 CROP REPORT BY USDA SHOWS THAT THE MIDWEST DROUGHT HAS SHARPLY REDUCED FEED-GRAIN AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION. OBVIOUSLY ANY DECLINE IN PRODUCTION IN THE FACE OF AN ALREADY TIGHT SUPPLY SITUATION ADDS TO THE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES. THE INCREASED PRICES WHICH WE CAN NOW EXPECT FOR GRAINS WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING SUPPLIES OF MEAT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AS OUR FARMERS ADJUST BY SLAUGHTERING ANIMALS, BUT IT WILL RESULT IN TIGHTER SUPPLIES OF MEAT NEXT YEAR AND HIGHER PRICES THEN.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE MITIGATING FACTORS. THE CROP SITUATION ABROAD IS GOOD, AND THERE WILL BE LESS DEMAND FOR OUR GRAINS FROM EXPORTS. ALSO, U.S. WHEAT PRODUCTION IS UP BY 8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR. WE ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION CLOSELY TO ASSURE THAT PANIC BUYING EITHER AT HOME OR ABROAD DOES NOT COMPOUND OUR PROBLEM AND CAUSE UNNECESSARY PRICE INCREASES, AND ARE SEEKING MORE INFORMATION ON FOREIGN SUPPLY AND DEMAND CONDITIONS.

QUESTION - WOULD THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDER IMPOSING EXPORT CONTROLS ON GRAINS , OILSEEDS, AND THEIR PRODUCTS TO PREVENT FURTHER INFLATION IN FOOD PRICES.

ANSWER - WE WILL NOT IMPOSE EXPORT CONTROLS UNLESS THE WORLD DEMAND AND SUPPLY SITUATION WORSENS TO THE POINT THAT WE HAVE NO OTHER RECOURSE TO PROTECT THE U.S. FOOD SUPPLY AND THE CONSUMERS WELFARE. I RECOGNIZE THAT PEOPLE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION. WE ARE ASSESSING THE SITUATION TO DETERMINE THE FULL MAGNITUDE AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROBLEM. WE WANT TO AVOID PANIC AND TO RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO RUSH FORWARD HASTILY WITH A DECISION THAT WILL CAUSE EVEN GREATER PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.

FURTHER INFO - THE RECENT CROP REPORT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INDICATES A SHARP REDUCTION IN GRAIN SUPPLIES THIS COMING YEAR. PRICES OF WHEAT, CORN, SOYBEANS AND OTHER GRAINS ARE EXPECTED TO RISE SHARPLY. LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS WILL BE FACED WITH HIGHER FEED COSTS WHICH WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT LIQUIDATIONS OF LIVESTOCK HERDS. THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT WILL BE LOWER PRICES OF MEAT DURING LATE 1974 AND EARLY 1975 BECAUSE OF LARGER SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE. LATER IN 1975 AND 1976 PRICES OF MEAT CAN BE EXPECTED TO RISE SHARPLY BECAUSE OF REDUCED SUPPLIES. POULTRY, EGGS AND MILK PRICES WOULD PROBABLY START INCREASING SIGNIFICANTLY BY THE END OF 1974. WHEAT FLOUR AND BREAD PRICES CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE, BUT THE IMPACT ON RETAIL PRICES MAY BE SMALL.

EXPORT CONTROL IS AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS MEASURE TO REDUCE INFLATION. IT DISRUPTS MARKETS, ENCOURAGES OUR FOREIGN CUSTOMERS, TO SEE OTHER MORE RELIABLE SUPPLIERS, LIMITS OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND TO HUMANITARIAN AND FOREIGN POLICY NEEDS FOR FOOD AID, AND IS A DIFFICULT PROGRAM TO ADMINISTER.

HAZEN GALE
964-8546
356-3490
AUGUST 14, 1974

QUESTION - Do you favor trimming Revenue Sharing as well as trimming other parts of the budget?

ANSWER - No. All the states and over 38,000 local governments have based their finances and service programs on the regular receipt of the general Revenue Sharing funds they are entitled to. In fact, long term predictability is a key element in Revenue Sharing.

Balancing the Federal budget by arbitrarily unbalancing the budgets of every state and local government in the country is no real solution. It might help us a little with one of our problems but it would cause over 38,000 new problems which doesn't add up to progress in my book.

John K. Parker
Code 140-45157
08/14/74

QUESTION - How can the government get labor and business to exercise restraint on wage hikes and product prices? Through the Labor-Management Advisory Council?

ANSWER - The most important thing that government can do is to apply meaningful fiscal and monetary restraint, so that labor and business fully recognize and believe that we are going to do the tough and effective things that will control inflation. This will mean, most importantly, that a small but significant margin of slack will exist in the economy, which will produce strong competitive counterpressures against excessive wage and price hikes.

ERZ

Edgar R. Fiedler
Ext. 2551
299-3476
August 21, 1974

QUESTION - Is there a slack in the economy that would prompt some people to suggest wage-price controls might work as they did during Phase I?

ANSWER - Some slack is now developing in the economy although there are many industries that are still operating at flat out full capacity. However, there are very few people around today who want to go back to wage and price controls. Certainly I do not want to.

ERF
#

Edgar R. Fiedler
Ext. 2551
299-3476
August 21, 1974

QUESTION - Do you favor business tax incentives to increase industrial capacity as does Arthur Burns?

ANSWER - The greatest contribution government could make to business investment would be a stronger Federal budget so that deficits are not diverting savings away from the financing of capital formation. Further tax incentives would not be highly productive in a situation where the major problem for inflation is induced by excessively weak budgets.

Paul McCracken
X5881
8-21-74

QUESTION - What is your position with respect to rationing of credit—an idea which Burns is said to lean towards.

ANSWER - A farflung and detailed system of credit rationing would be unadvisable and is not needed. On the other hand I do urge banks in the deployment of their resources to maintain a reasonable allocation to such needs as mortgages and smaller business financing even if in the short run incentives seem to point the other way.

Paul McCracken
X5881
8-21-74

WOMEN

Q: As President, do you plan to push for the passage of the credit legislation now pending in Congress?

A: Last Wednesday, August 22, I signed the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 which prohibits sex discrimination in housing and mortgage credit lending. Ensuring that credit is extended to all persons on an equitable basis, without regard to their sex or marital status, has been an initiative of the Nixon Administration and I urge prompt action on the Congressional proposals now pending.

HOUSING INDUSTRY

Question:

What is being done to prevent a further collapse in the housing industry?

Answer:

The problems faced by the housing industry and by prospective home buyers result from the same inflationary pressures that affect the rest of the economy. I have asked the Department of Housing and Urban Development in consultation with my economic advisers and other agencies in the Federal government, to advise me promptly as to whether there are any new initiatives we might take to bring some relief to the housing sector without adding to the inflationary pressures that brought about the problem in the first place.

8/26/74

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 26, 1974

AUG 26 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERALD TER HORST
FROM: ANNE ARMSTRONG *ALL*
SUBJECT: Q & A FOR NEWS CONFERENCE

Attached please find questions and answers which I believe will be pertinent to the President's upcoming news conference. These have been arranged by order of priority in each area.

Today is Women's Equality Day, and as a result a number of activities have been planned around the country to celebrate this event. Because of the publicity these events will generate, and also because the sermon on Sunday at the church service attended by the President was given by one of the controversial Episcopalian women Deacons, it is likely that the "women's issue" will be more in the forefront than usual at the press conference.

Attachment

WOMEN

Q: Do you plan to appoint a woman to your Cabinet?

A: I am currently reviewing White House and Department staffs, and I do intend to increase the number of women in top level positions. As you know, Anne Armstrong serves as Counsellor to the President with Cabinet rank, and she is the first woman to hold that position. In addition, I placed a woman, Gwen Anderson, in a high-level staff position when I was Vice President.

FEDERAL PROPERTY COUNCIL

Q. We hear rumors that the Federal Property Council is going to be disbanded. Is this true?

A. No. In line with my desire to streamline White House operations, we are exploring new ways it can operate effectively with less cost.

FEDERAL PROPERTY COUNCIL

- Q. I haven't heard much about the Legacy of Parks program lately. What's happening?
- A. The Legacy of Parks program has produced nearly 500 park sites from surplus federal property. The program is continuing, and we will announce several new parks soon.

FOREIGN POLICY COMMISSION

Q. What is the status of the Commission on the Organization of Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy? (Murphy Commission)

A. It is finishing up its briefings here in Washington and is about to embark on hearings in 4 major cities to insure broad input. Following those hearings, the Commission will draft a report of its findings and recommendations for formulating and implementing U.S. foreign policy. The report will be submitted to the Congress by June 30, 1975.

BICENTENNIAL

Q. I've been to a lot of places in the country lately, and I don't see much Bicentennial activity anywhere. Why is it taking so long to get going?

A. A great deal of groundwork has been laid by the Bicentennial Administration under the able leadership of the new Administrator John Warner. Many programs are in the planning stage with the results to show in the months ahead as we draw closer to the official celebration. Currently, there are more than 1,300 recognized Bicentennial Communities, and over 3,000 Bicentennial projects underway. Many more are being added daily.

BICENTENNIAL

- Q. What is happening with the National Visitor Center?
- A. There are meetings being held between several banks, the railroads and the Department of Interior to reach an agreement on the Visitors Center. Progress is being made, and it is hoped that the Center will be ready for the Bicentennial.

BICENTENNIAL

Q. What has happened to the Bicentennial Advisory Council and Board of Directors? And when will the Deputy Administrator be named?

A. As President, I am committed to the success of the Bicentennial Celebration and I am in the process of reviewing the recommendations that have been made for these positions. They will be announced shortly.

BICENTENNIAL

Q: How much is the Bicentennial costing the taxpayers?

A: Since 1966 the Federal Government has spent about \$66 million for Federal Bicentennial projects across the country. It is estimated that the Federal Bicentennial projects and preparations across America will run about \$97 million in Fiscal Year '75.

BICENTENNIAL

Q: Since 1976 is an election year, won't the Bicentennial be used as a political platform?

A: The Bicentennial is a celebration commemorating the 200th anniversary of our country's independence and all its history, including the political system. Nationwide, the Bicentennial is being planned and implemented largely by volunteer citizen groups formed irrespective of political affiliation. I think that's good, and the way it should be.

BICENTENNIAL

Q. Is the Bicentennial going to be just a commercial "rip off" of the public?

A. There will be some commercial aspects, but there is nothing inherently wrong in this. After all, the word "Bicentennial" is in the dictionary for all to use under our basic tenet of free speech. The use of the official Bicentennial logo will be limited and regulated by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA). But overwhelmingly, the Bicentennial will be a gift of the American people to themselves -- a celebration which will not only commemorate our heritage, but set the stage for this country to enter the third century of its independence.

BICENTENNIAL

Q: What is the role of foreign countries in our Bicentennial?

A: We have invited international participation and response from abroad indicates a fast-growing interest in providing a meaningful contribution to our Bicentennial celebration. The French gift of a Sound and Light Exhibit at Mount Vernon is one example.

BICENTENNIAL

Q. Why aren't we having a federally sponsored exposition — like a World's Fair — for the Bicentennial?

A. The Bicentennial is a national celebration and the participation of every American, in every community, is vital to it's success. A Federal extravaganza is not appropriate because the focus of the Bicentennial is on you — where you live — what you do to commemorate our 200 years as a nation.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY TER HORST
FROM: POWELL A. MOORE *RAM*
SUBJECT: Anticipated Questions for
Wednesday Press Conference

Attached are anticipated questions for the Wednesday Press Conference that relate to Congressional Relations with suggested answers.

They cover the following subjects:

Vice President's Confirmation
Congressional Campaign
Conservatives Revolt
Consumer Protection
Trade Reform
Health Insurance
Tax Reform
Lame Duck Session
Legislative Agenda
Cargo Preference
Campaign Reform

Congressional Relations
Health Insurance

Q. Do you expect to receive a Comprehensive Health Insurance bill this year?

A. I recognize that no clear consensus exists among supporters of a Comprehensive Health Insurance bill at the present time and the difficulties that confront us in agreeing to a bill this year. But, this legislation is of profound importance to the American people; therefore, I hope that an approach of compromise and cooperation can produce results during the weeks remaining in the 93rd Congress.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Presidential Special Assistant

Question: What has happened to the appointment of Fernando DeBaca who was to become the first Special Assistant to the President of Hispanic descent?

Answer: The appointment of Mr. DeBaca is a very important one, and he will begin September 1.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish Speaking People

Question: What, if any, significance can be attributed to the resignation on August 9 of Dr. Henry Ramirez as Chairman of the Cabinet Committee and the future of that agency?

Answer: The two matters are really independent of one another. Dr. Ramirez had served for three years as Chairman and felt that the time was appropriate for both his return to private life and the appointment of another person who could contribute a fresh approach and new ideas to solving the problems of Hispanic-Americans.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish Speaking People

Question: What action do you intend to take on the Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish Speaking People whose legislative authorization is due to expire this December 31?

Answer: As you know, the former President asked that the Cabinet Committee be extended through FY 1975. I wholeheartedly support this position and urge Congress to act positively on it. Since the Cabinet Committee has been on a continuing resolution for the last two years, any discussion about the Committee's future beyond the present time would certainly seem premature.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Presidential Appointments

Question: Is there any validity to the criticism which some Spanish-speaking leaders have expressed that qualified Spanish-Americans are ignored in filling major positions in the Administration?

Answer: On the contrary, since January of 1969, there has been a five-fold increase in the number of qualified Hispanic-Americans who are holding Presidentially appointed positions in government.

Additionally, more than 30 Hispanic-Americans are serving as Regional or Deputy Regional Directors in the ten Federal regions.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Revenue Sharing

Question: What has the Administration done to insure that revenue sharing does not have a severe and negative effect on the Spanish-speaking?

Answer: The State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 prohibits acts of discrimination on grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex. Furthermore, recipient governments must publish planned use reports for their local constituencies.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Economic Development

Question: Hispanic-Americans have often expressed the belief that they have taken a back seat to other minorities in business development efforts by the Federal government. What is this Administration doing to insure that this minority receives its fair share of attention?

Answer: The Office of Minority Business Enterprise works closely with the Small Business Administration to provide technical, management, and financial assistance to minority businesses.

The head of OMBE, Alex Armendaris, is himself a successful businessman of Mexican descent.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Educational Opportunities

Question: Education is always a pressing need of disadvantaged Americans. What is the Administration doing to address this problem in regard to the Spanish-speaking?

Answer: Approximately \$175 million was spent in FY 1974 for elementary, secondary, technical and adult vocational educational programs benefiting the Spanish-speaking. HEW and Justice also are working together closely to see that all relevant programs are in line with the Supreme Court's recent Lau vs. Nichols decision which requires public school systems to take positive action in helping children who do not speak English.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Census Bureau Count

Question: Revenue sharing puts an increasing importance on accurate Census counts. Are any actions being taken to get a more accurate count of Spanish-Americans in the 1980 census?

Answer: The Census Bureau continues to evaluate and refine its techniques and the Hispanic-American should be in far better position by 1980 to be assured a comprehensive and accurate count.

HISPANIC-AMERICANS

August 26, 1974

Housing

Question: What actions are being taken to provide decent housing for the Hispanic-American?

Answer: As you know, I signed the "Housing and Community Development Act of 1974" which is a major step in improving housing conditions for all Americans.

YOUTH

- Q. What is your administration going to do to allow more young people to contribute?
- A. I believe that young people, just like any other segment of the population, should have an equal opportunity to be heard and to make positive input in policy making. In that regard, I am committed to appointing the most qualified and representative young people to both full-time positions and part-time Advisory Commissions, Councils and Boards.

YOUTH

Q. Former President Nixon, for a variety of reasons, made very few campus appearances during the last several years of his Administration. Do you intend to avoid these public appearances as well?

A. As you know, I will be going to Ohio State University this Friday to deliver the commencement address, a commitment I made when I was Vice President. I have absolutely no intention of discontinuing these trips, and time permitting, I hope to see many young people, both on and off campus, during my Administration.

LABOR DEPT.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 26, 1974

John Carlson:

A small input for your
Press Conference on
Wednesday.

Q. AFL-CIO President George Meany accused the Nixon Administration of phasing out federally-assisted housing programs and has called for the government to make low-interest mortgage money available to stimulate stagnating construction and to increase the now-virtually non-existent supply of new moderately priced housing. What do you plan to do about this?

A. We are conducting an intensive review of the whole housing problem, as well as interest rates and unemployment in the construction industry. Construction is a weathervane industry for our economy. President Meany of the AFL-CIO and I talked about this during his recent visit to the White House. I might add that he and I had a most worthwhile session, and I was glad to hear his views on some of the problems of working men and women in this country. Certainly decent housing must have a high priority on our national agenda. This will, I am sure, be one of the topics at the economic summit conference. We hope to work out a way to stimulate construction, especially in cities where it is

lagging, and to offset some of the unemployment that may result from our efforts to cool the economy.

Q. After meeting recently with you, Teamster Union President Frank E. Fitzsimmons said he had urged you to impose wage and price controls for about 30 days. What is your position on short-term controls?

A. As I indicated on August 20, I do not plan to ask for legislative authority for any kind of federal mandatory wage and price controls.

Q. People around the nation began observing Women's Week on August 26. This raises a question about what your Administration plans to do about reported widespread discrimination against women in employment.

A. Women represent one of our nation's most valuable resources of talent and ability. At this stage in our economy history, we cannot afford to relegate them to low paying, dead-end jobs or hold them back from reaching their full potential. The most effective way to assure women equality in all aspects of American life will be through ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. This measure requires the approval of five more states, and we urge its adoption without further unnecessary delays. Meanwhile, the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare are working to assure that women have equal opportunity to train and educate themselves for higher-paying work. They are working with business, labor and women's groups to apprise women of their opportunities, and are encouraging women to pursue them. They also are carrying out the policy of this Administration, which is to continue vigorously enforcing those laws which guarantee women's employment rights. These include the Civil

Rights Act, Equal Pay Act and Executive Order
11246. I pledge that we will not let up in these
efforts until every woman has a fair chance to
obtain a job and advance as far as her abilities
can take her.

Q. Nearly everyone recognizes that State workers' compensation laws are inadequate. Do you feel the Federal government should take a more active role in this area?

A. It is true that many state workers' compensation laws do not afford workers or their families adequate coverage and benefits in the event of job accident, disease or death. And I agree that the federal government should take a leading role in improving this situation. That's why I favor the approach initiated by the previous Administration. It established a federal inter-agency task force--consisting of the Departments of Labor; Commerce; Health, Education and Welfare; and Housing and Urban Development--that is now helping states to improve their workers' compensation laws. Using technical assistance and research into compensation issues, this task force is attempting to help states bring about these improvements by the target date of 1976. The sought improvements generally follow recommendations of the National Commission on Workmen's Compensation--including mandatory coverage for all workers, full coverage for occupational disease and a more adequate level of benefits that will help injured workers or their survivors keep up with the cost of living.

Whether this Administration takes any further steps, through legislation or other means, depends on the progress of the task force in effecting state law improvements by the target date.

Q. Rising imports have hurt several American industries, and many workers have been thrown out of their jobs, with serious effect on local economies in some places. What does your Administration plan to do about these industries and these workers?

A. As you know, President Nixon revived the Trade Expansion Act which has been on the books since 1962 but was virtually unused under previous administrations. This act has now helped thousands of workers in industries that have been seriously affected by imports including shoes, electronics parts, and pottery, to name three. I have asked Congress to speed passage of the new trade reform legislation which is now before the Senate Finance Committee, and I have talked with Senators Dominick, Jackson and Ribicoff and others about this. I sincerely hope that differences which have been preventing passage of this much-needed legislation can be worked out. There is strong reason to hope that this is the case. The new legislation would provide better protection for workers who lose their jobs. It would give them benefits while they are out of work, retraining, and an

allowance to move where there are jobs if necessary. It would also give the Executive Branch more power to negotiate tariffs that would create a more equitable situation for American products in the American marketplace.

Q. A Senate-House conference committee has under consideration a House amendment to the Labor-HEW appropriations bill. The amendment would exempt small business from the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Labor Secretary Brennan has said he will request a veto of the entire appropriations bill if that amendment is permitted to stand. Will you veto the money bill if this occurs?

A. As a member of the House of Representatives, I voted for final passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. I did not believe then, and I do not believe now, that there should be exceptions to the law. In fact, the House amendment would exclude 90 percent of all business in this country and 17 million workers. In addition, it would create enormous problems for the construction industry. Major contractors would be subject to the law; subcontractors would not. I would hope that the conference committee will make a presidential veto unnecessary by striking the amendment -- as did the Senate appropriations subcommittee earlier this month.

Q. What action does the Administration plan to take in the event of a work stoppage in the soft coal industry this fall?

A. An uninterrupted supply of coal is essential to this Nation's economy, and coal plays a vital role in our long range goal of energy self-sufficiency. In the upcoming contract talks between the United Mine Workers and the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association the parties to the negotiations carry a heavy burden of public responsibility for a peaceful settlement which will foster stability in the industry through the crucial years ahead. I am sure they realize this. Negotiations in the industry will begin very shortly, and it is inappropriate and unnecessary to talk about any government involvement at this time.

Q. What do you expect for the rest of the year in labor-management relations?

A. By now most of the big and pattern-setting contracts have been peacefully concluded, but, according to what I read and hear, there may be rough going in coal. We are watching developments in this industry carefully -- they have major national and international repercussions that I do not need to spell out -- and we are ready to offer the parties every assistance we can. Many of the problems in this and other industries are, I believe, in large measure directly traceable to the high rate of inflation we have been experiencing.

Q. There are many who feel that equal employment opportunity has not received adequate attention in recent years. Do you intend to step up efforts in this area?

A. We would be naive to tackle this nation's economic problems without considering the needs of those who, because of discrimination, are hit hardest by unemployment and by low wage employment -- minority group members, women, older workers, and the handicapped. At the same time, I feel government should always remind itself that this country was founded on the principles of equality and justice under the law -- not just for some citizens, but for all.

Fortunately, our government has enacted very effective laws guaranteeing equal opportunity in employment, namely the Civil Rights Act, the Equal Pay Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246 (requiring EEO in federal contract work) and the recently passed Vocational Rehabilitation Act.

Working through Departments of Labor and Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, we intend to enforce these laws to the fullest.

One of our goals is to negotiate additional equal employment opportunity agreements with some of the nation's largest employers.

Agreements such as those reached this year with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of California and the steel industry provide an excellent base from which to work.

We also intend to support vigorous enforcement of these laws whenever we find qualified workers being denied employment because of discrimination.

As for new initiatives in this area, I'd like to point out that the Department of Labor has recently issued regulations under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. They are intended to benefit some 12 million mentally and physically handicapped workers of this nation by requiring federal contractors to develop affirmative action plans for hiring and advancing those who are qualified.

Q. In his economic address on July 25, President Nixon implied that there may be a "trade-off" between achieving certain economic goals and certain other objectives, including occupational safety and health. What is your position on this matter?

A. Let me emphasize in the strongest possible terms that we do not think in terms of trade-offs or any kind of compromise when it comes to protecting the lives and limbs of American workers. My Administration believes that we should strive for the safest and most healthy workplaces we can achieve. We shall evaluate the economic impact of work safety and health rules -- particularly health rules which often have great economic impact. But there is no intention to subordinate worker safety and health to economic considerations. The Labor Department will, as required by law, consider economic impact before the proposal of new standards. Where there might be substantial economic impact, the Department will perform an economic impact analysis and publish it as part of the proposed standard.

Q. A memorandum written some time ago by a former high-level official in the Department of Labor recently came to light. It suggested ways to promote election campaign contributions by soft-pedaling Occupational Safety and Health Act enforcement. What is your reaction to this kind of activity?

A. There'll be no politics played with the lives or livelihood of American workers. That pledge includes occupational safety and health and all other areas where the Federal Government has enforcement responsibilities.

Q. OSHA has been accused of dragging its feet in publishing standards, and even that there were political considerations involved. Would you comment on this.

A. First, if OSHA could be accused of dragging its feet in the past in promulgating standards, that no longer is true. OSHA's Office of Standards Development has been reorganized and now is staffed to do its job in an expeditious manner. It will propose within the next year 15 new health standards based on criteria documents it has in hand from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Labor and HEW have placed high priority on the completion of standards for hundreds of toxic substances. It is targeted to publish, by October 5, a standard protecting workers from exposure to vinyl chloride. I can assure you that there will be no political considerations entering into the OSHA standards-setting process.

Q. What has been happening to unemployment in recent months?

A. Unemployment has not increased as much as many predicted it would. Some thought at the height of the energy crisis that joblessness would rise precipitously; yet the unemployment rate has increased only moderately so far in 1974. At the beginning of the year, the jobless rate rose from 4.6 percent in last October to 5.2 percent in January. This rise appears to have been caused largely by energy shortages and related problems, however, and since January the overall rate of unemployment has been virtually unchanged. Somewhat higher rates are likely before the end of the year, however, and we must watch the situation very carefully so that we can give proper consideration to any measures which might be truly effective in relieving the burden on any hard-hit groups of workers.

Q. What about unemployment among Vietnam veterans?

Don't they bear a disproportionate share of total joblessness in this country?

A. Available statistics do not indicate that veterans overall bear a disproportionate share of total unemployment in the U.S. However, younger veterans (20-24 years old) do experience higher rates of unemployment than nonveterans of the same age, due largely to less job market experience. Joblessness among older veterans -- those 25 and above -- is about the same as that of nonveterans of the same age. Although Vietnam-era veterans did experience a slight rise in unemployment in late 1973 and early 1974, similar to that which took place among all workers in the economy, their jobless rate has shown virtually no change since January. In July, the unemployment rate of Vietnam-era veterans 20-34 years of age was 4.9 percent, the same as it was in July 1973.

Q. The Labor Department reports increased strike activity in recent months. With inflation rising at an 11-percent rate, do you expect even more strikes. And what are you going to do about them?

A. Inflation has clearly brought pressures on workers to seek higher wages and on employers to try to hold down their costs. As we get a better handle on inflation, we hope these very real pressures in collective bargaining will recede. And as we work to reduce inflation, we will ask labor and business to exercise restraint in their wage-price demands.

Q. What does the Administration plan to do about the increasing number of strikes that are now occurring?

A. While there were approximately 400 more strikes in effect in the first six months of 1974 than in the same period in 1973, we were fortunate that these did not involve units which could severely impact on the rest of the economy. Indeed, there were some notable successes in the 1974 bargaining year to date. Peaceful settlements in the aluminum and steel industries were reached months before the expiration of previous agreements. A coast-wide settlement in the East Coast longshore negotiations was reached three months before the expiration of the current contract and significant progress has been made to date in local port bargaining. This is the kind of responsible action on the part of labor and management which I am hopeful will continue in the coming months as we search for solutions to the Nation's pressing economic problems.

- Q. Negotiated wage increases in the second quarter of 1974 have increased greatly over those of a year ago. What action will the Government take to reverse this trend?
- A. With the expiration of wage-price controls on April 30, 1974 an increase could be expected in wage increases among the many workers who were not covered by cost-of-living wage escalators during the period of controls. Hopefully, this will be short-lived phenomenon. I fully expect the cooperation of both labor and management in holding the line on wage and price increases in the coming months. Approval for the new Cost-of-Living Task Force by the Congress will give us a means of spotting those increases which might be unjustified.

Q. With the increasing concern for protection against the rise in the cost-of-living through the implementation of cost-of-living escalator clauses in collective bargaining agreements, do you feel that the operation of these clauses themselves may become inflationary?

A. There are differing opinions as to the relative inflationary impact of payments under cost-of-living escalator clauses. Certainly, during a time of increasing consumer prices, one can expect a growing concern to be demonstrated by the worker for some sort of protection. For example, the unions are pointing to the fact that spendable earnings have increased 5.2 percent over the past four quarters but, when adjusted for the rise in prices, they have fallen by 4.9 percent. There is, however, no clear cut answer to whether COLA payments themselves contribute to inflation, and if they do to what extent. While a cost-of-living escalator clause in one round of bargaining may tend to raise the cost of that particular settlement, a corresponding decrease in wage demands in the next negotiation may be made since the protection the COLA adjustments afford reduces the incentive for so-called catch-up increases.

- Q. With our current rapidly rising prices, are the earnings of the average American worker keeping pace with the prices of things he must buy?
- A. Unfortunately, prices are rising a good deal faster than earnings. Over the last year, prices have risen by 11.1 percent, while weekly earnings have increased by only 6.9 percent. In fact, what the average worker can buy with his weekly pay today is no more than what he could buy in 1969.

Q. What can the government do to increase productivity?

A. There is very little that government can do directly to influence productivity in the private sector, but it can help indirectly. The National Commission on Productivity for several years now has been exploring ways in which the government can aid private efforts by setting a climate for productivity growth. This has included an examination of impediments resulting from various regulations and a consideration of such items as preferential tax treatment of investment in both physical capital -- plant and equipment -- and human capital -- education and skills. We shall review carefully the Commission's work in these areas. Of course, if we can reduce inflationary pressures in the economy, investors' confidence will return, resulting in a more favorable environment for investment in new capital and development of new technology, both of which will improve productivity.

- Q. Is it true that U.S. productivity has been declining recently?
- A. Yes. Over the past year, productivity -- output per man-hour in the private economy -- fell by 2 percent. In the nonfarm sector, it has been declining for the last five quarters, reflecting a falloff in output.

Q. You have indicated that one of the ways you plan to fight inflation is by reducing government spending and by trying to balance the budget. In the past, one of the larger kinds of federal government spending has been for job training, public employment and other services for groups who have suffered most from unemployment -- the young, blacks and other minority groups, veterans, and others. If your efforts to combat inflation result in more unemployment, what are you going to do to help these groups?

A. It's clear that some of our efforts to cool the economy may cause increased unemployment. Our task is to keep this increase to an absolute minimum and to provide assistance to workers who lose their jobs. In keeping the lid on federal spending, which must be done, I intend to make every effort to assure that programs needed to help people -- especially unemployed people -- are not curtailed. It seems to me that if people lose their jobs because of government actions in the public interest -- like fighting inflation -- then the government has an obligation -- just as much in the public interest -- to help those people. Insofar as manpower

training programs are concerned, Congress has been reviewing the Administration's 1975 fiscal year budget request for implementation of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. This Act is a positive step toward achieving better economy in job training. We hope to get more value for the taxpayer's dollar by placing most of the designing of manpower services into the hands of state and local governments. These people can utilize these funds more efficiently because they know what the problems are in their areas. They know who needs training and jobs most. Meanwhile, we are going to analyze the economic trends. As you know, we will be holding a conference in a few weeks to talk with representatives of business and labor and government, as well as others, about inflation and the economy. The question you raise here, including the question of enlarging manpower programs for certain groups, will be put to that conference.

Q. Mr. President, a five-year effort to create a comprehensive manpower law and shift the decision-making and operation of such programs to local governments resulted in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973, signed late last December. What are your feelings about this from your new vantage as President? Do you think decentralization is going to work?

A. As you know, I was for this type of reform and special manpower revenue sharing when I was in the House. I have not changed my opinion. I believe it is the direction we should take in many programs that deal with strictly local situations and problems. I think we ought to give the decision-making and responsibility for local affairs back to the elected representatives of the people. I recently called state and local officials who have developed outstanding plans for local manpower programs under the new act and commended them as representatives of what is being achieved by local governmental units. I have great faith that this manpower effort is going to work very well for the country. The Labor Department reports that the 400 or so plans submitted have shown responsible concern for all facets of local needs.

Q. Arthur Burns has been saying that if unemployment rises in the wake of anti-inflation measures taken by the Administration, billions of dollars should be appropriated for broad public service employment programs. What is your position on such a measure to counter unemployment?

A. It is fruitless to decide now about measures we might take to counter high unemployment when any measures should be tailored to the dimensions and characteristics of the situation in which we find ourselves. In the meantime, the provisions of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act have enough built-in flexibility to shift substantial funds into employment and retraining programs to blunt the initial impact of any rise in unemployment in the months ahead. We have asked for a budget of \$350 million for public service employment in this fiscal year, coupled with \$620 million appropriated two months ago for the same purpose. Local units of government, under our manpower special revenue sharing approach, have the option to apply additional millions from training services to public service employment when local situations warrant.

Q. Do you see a need to reshape, change, or modify the unemployment insurance system in the country to handle the possibility of increased unemployment as the result of anti-inflation measures?

A. The Administration has twice recently proposed legislation to improve UI. This has high priority, in my view. The proposal now before Congress would provide jobless workers in all states with weekly benefits of at least half their weekly wage up to a maximum of at least 66 and 2/3rds of the average weekly wage in a state. It would also extend coverage to farmworkers. During the energy crisis, special temporary provisions were added for areas with especially high unemployment. We are reviewing these and other possible improvements, in the context both of long run basic improvements and also shorter-run contingencies.

Q. Do you have special plans or ideas about reducing the number of people on public assistance programs?

A. The Labor Department and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare have been administering the latest amendments to the Work Incentive (WIN) Program in a way that focuses the effort on placing eligible welfare recipients in jobs. We are examining still further ways to maximize placement of welfare recipients in jobs. AFDC roles from March 1973 to March of this year were down by 240,000, a remarkable and heartening statistic at a time when unemployment has remained around the 5 percent mark most of the time.

Q. Mr. President, would you please comment on the latest increase in consumer prices?

A. The statistics just released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the Consumer Price Index rose eight tenths of one percent from June to July, which is somewhat less than the increase for the two preceding months. But we know that it is risky to base any conclusions on a single month's statistics. The slower rise in July was the result of a drop in food prices which may be temporary. The other two components of the index -- commodities and services -- continued to rise at about the same rate as they have in recent months. The latest figures are a reminder that inflation is our No. 1 problem.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
August 23, 1974

AUG 23 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY terHORST
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *BT*
SUBJECT: President's News Conference

Attached are some questions which may be raised at any Presidential news conference. The recommended answers will have to come from other staff members.

I will submit a legislative section for your briefing book as soon as it can be put together.

- Q) Who owns the Nixon tapes and documents?
- Q) Will you send the Nixon papers to San Clemente?
- Q) Will you campaign for Republicans this fall?
- Q) Will Rockefeller campaign for Republicans this fall?

(NOTE: Rocky told some Congressmen he would not campaign against incumbent Democrats.)

- Q) Will the campaign theme still be "inflation proof" Congress?
- Q) How many GOP losses do you see in the Senate and House elections this year?
- Q) How will your White House staff be reorganized?
- Q) Which Cabinet officers will be replaced and when?

WOMEN

Q: Many women's organizations are concerned about your reference to women's liberationists and male chauvinists. Does this mean you do not take seriously the concerns of women?

A: Absolutely not. I am deeply dedicated to achieving full Equality for women. As I stated when signing the Women's Equality Day Proclamation, it has been my observation that women over the years in politics, as well as otherwise, have to do things twice as well as men in order to get half the credit, and I think we have got to change that.

WOMEN

Q: In January of this year, 1975 was proclaimed International Women's Year by President Nixon. What are your plans for it?

A: I am proud that our Nation was the first to proclaim 1975 as International Women's Year. We will be actively involved in plans for the IWY World Conference being sponsored by the U.N. to be held in Bogota, Columbia early next summer.

WOMEN

Q: As a sportsman, what do you think of HEW's coverage of intercollegiate athletics in the proposed Title IX Regulations of the Education Amendments of 1972?

A: It is my understanding that the Regulation would neither exempt nor disrupt intercollegiate athletics as some have feared; rather the Regulation moves in the direction of insuring better opportunities for women in athletic programs.

Athletics is one of many complex issues included in these regulations and that is why interested parties have been given 120 days as compared with the usual 30 days to send their comments to HEW. That means groups have until October 15 to comment.

WOMEN

Q: Do you think women should be admitted to the Service Academies?

A: As you know, military experts are divided on this issue. One Service Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine, has recently admitted women. As there is a bill currently pending in Congress, I have asked my staff to review this issue.

WOMEN

- Q: Since population and family planning are of prime concern to women, why weren't there more women delegates representing the U.S. at the World Population Conference now being held in Bucharest?
- A: It is my understanding that Patricia Hutar, the U.S. delegate to the U.N. Commission of the Status of Women, was one of the five principal delegates. All I can say is that I will do everything possible to insure that all delegations be representative of those people concerned with the issues to be discussed.

WOMEN

Q: Isn't the Equal Rights Amendment in trouble?

A: To the contrary, I am encouraged about its prospects. To date, 33 States have ratified the Amendment. As you know, 38 States must ratify by 1979 to make this part of our Constitution.

WOMEN

Q: What about the arguments against ERA --will it weaken family life and put women in the front lines in combat?

A: I think these fears are groundless, otherwise I would not support the ERA. As President Eisenhower said, "ERA is a matter of simple justice". It will guarantee legal equality for all Americans -- men and women alike.

WOMEN

Q: What is your stand on the Equal Rights Amendment?

A: As you know, I reaffirmed my personal commitment to that Amendment when I signed the Women's Equality Day Proclamation on August 22nd. In 1970 I assisted Congresswoman Griffiths in bringing the ERA to the floor of the House by obtaining 15 of the 16 signatures.

WOMEN

Q: You've recently reaffirmed your support of the ERA, but what are you going to do to insure full equality for women?

A: I will use all the prestige of the Presidency to push for true equality for women including more appointments.

I want all women, whether homemaker, career woman or a combination of both, to be able to use their talents to the utmost without any barrier of discrimination.

WOMEN

Q: I understand Reverend Patricia Park took part in your church services Sunday. What do you think about the recent ordination of women in the Episcopal Church?

A: I have stated that women must be free to participate in all areas and at all levels of our society, including the church. However, it is my understanding that the ordination of these women took place without full ecclesiastical approval. I feel that it is inappropriate for me as President to comment upon the internal affairs of the Church.