

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Roberts, John G.: Files

Folder Title: JGR/Citizens Against
Government Waste

Box: 9

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

deficit reduction P-R campaign [particulars]

parting.

[anti-fallick]

(Act + counter measures)

C.A.G.W both 501(c)(3), (c)(4).

local entities.

Grass campaign. Developing Grass Committee agenda. [So

specific items on bill. will be falling for

passage] effort to have considered as whole package.

Jack Anderson a co-chair.

participation in special hearings.

GUIDANCE? - [Media events w/ Grass hearings.]

Ad resorted on fairness grounds (equal time concerns).

P-R ~~meeting~~ running.

CEO

com 4:00

A report to the American people about
waste and inefficiency in the federal government.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH.

Abraham Lincoln said, "The legitimate object of the government is to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot by individual effort do at all, or do so well for themselves."

The Government's 1986 budget is almost \$1 trillion, or about \$4,200 for every man, woman, and child in the United States. What we're spending that money on provides an indication of just how far we've come from Lincoln's concept of legitimate governmental objectives. For example:

- Procurement regulations in a single government agency now total more than 30,000 pages. This over-regulation goes a long way toward explaining purchases of \$435 hammers, \$659 ashtrays, \$640 toilet seats and \$7,400 coffee makers.

- Most federally funded mass-transit systems cost between \$50 million and \$100 million per mile to build. This compares to the San Diego transit system—constructed without federal assistance—which cost only \$6 million per mile.

- The Government requires up to four years to order and install automated data-

processing equipment. The private sector takes less than half that time.

- The Government spends an average of \$3.5 million a day on our inland waterways. The corporations and businesses that use these waterways pay only \$100,000 a day—the taxpayers recover 3¢ on each dollar the Government spends.

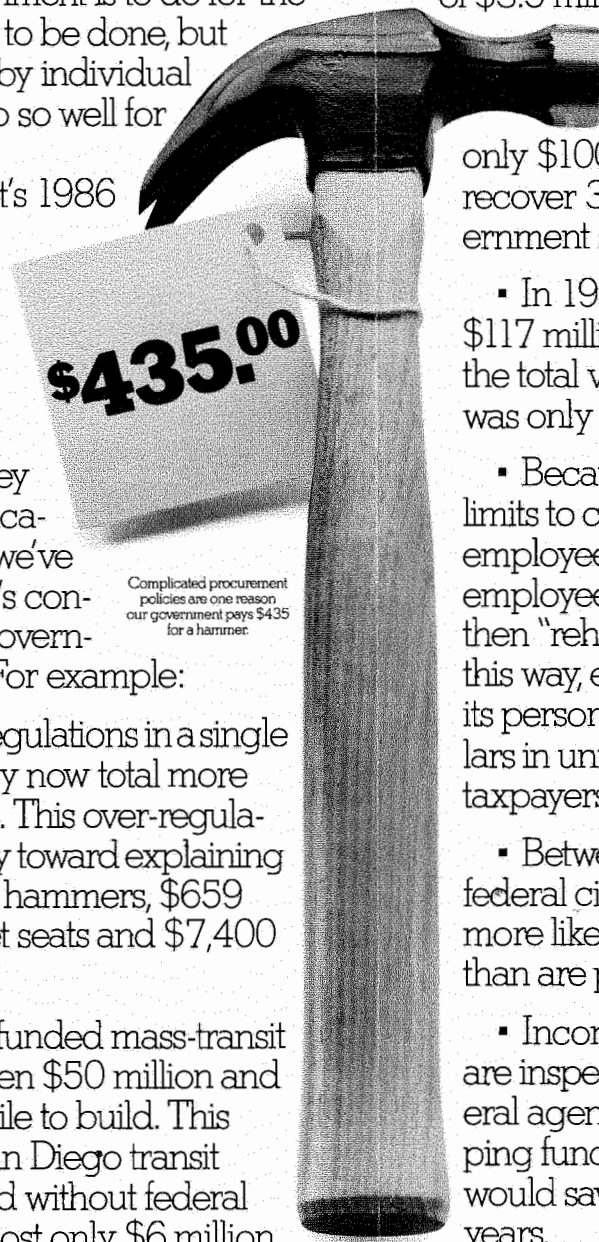
- In 1984, the Government paid \$117 million to wool producers, while the total value of the wool produced was only \$62 million.

- Because of year-end personnel limits to control the number of federal employees, agencies may "fire" some employees for one day at year-end, then "rehire" them the next day. In this way, each agency complies with its personnel ceiling—millions of dollars in unnecessary costs to American taxpayers.

- Between the ages of 30 and 50, federal civilian employees are 50% more likely to retire with disability than are private-sector employees.

- Incoming passengers and cargo are inspected by as many as six federal agencies. Consolidating overlapping functions of these agencies would save \$48 million over three years.

- Federal specifications for a "rodent elimination device" (a mousetrap to us taxpayers) ran to 102,000 words—about



200 single-spaced pages. Less costly to live with the mouse than build a mouse-trap following Government specifications.

The preceding is merely a small sampling of specific ways the federal dollar is spent. All of us must decide for ourselves whether these examples and the thousands of other projects funded with our tax dollars are, in fact, legitimate governmental objectives.

To make this crucial decision however, we must first become informed about our Government's activities.

KNOWLEDGE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ANY INTELLIGENT DECISION.

For too long, we have been kept in the dark about federal spending and its impact. We can no longer afford to be complacent.

We'll be spending more for government in 1986 than we did in total for all the years through 1954. We'll be spending about \$32,000 a second—millions of dollars will be spent by the time you finish reading this pamphlet. And "we'll be spending" is the key phrase to remember, because that one trillion dollars is coming out of our pockets, whether the Government taxes us now to meet current expenses or taxes us later to pay off its borrowing—one way or another, we, our children or our grandchildren are going to pay for that trillion dollars.

The Government is now deciding how to allocate almost one quarter of all the goods and services produced in the United States. For one quarter of our

economy, competition, and the efficiencies it creates, doesn't matter—politicians decide how to allocate those resources, not the free-market factors of supply and demand.

The cost of political, rather than market, allocation of resources has been made abundantly clear to all of us. Almost daily, the media report horror stories of excessive and wasteful federal spending, of programs that no longer meet their objectives and of federal excesses that make us wonder if the Government is really doing only that "which we cannot by individual effort do at all, or do so well for ourselves."

These stories aren't new. The General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget Office, and many other analysts both within and outside Government have been reporting them for years.

PUBLIC PRESSURE CAN WORK.

Far too frequently, these reports of Government waste and inefficiency were largely ignored, and little or nothing was done to remedy the problems they identified.

In some cases, in response to media-generated public pressure, corrective actions were taken, as, for example, the price reductions on the military's infamous purchase of \$640 toilet seats and \$659 ashtrays. Unfortunately, awareness doesn't always result in action. Then, too, for every story reported by the media, hundreds of others never reach the public's attention—spare-parts over-charges didn't happen overnight; they've been around for years. And even those stories

which are reported inevitably omit an essential piece of information—what you can do about it.

CAGW—A NEW COALITION.

In June 1982, President Reagan commissioned the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (PPSS).

The survey's charge was to identify waste and inefficiency in the federal government and to suggest ways to correct practices which cause it to occur. Over 2,000 private-sector volunteers worked on the survey, and after 18 months, they produced almost 2,500 ideas for reducing federal waste, inefficiency and overspending and increasing revenues without increasing taxes.

While PPSS was unique in terms of the size and scope of its review, it was not unique in its findings and recommendations. The Government itself, through the General Accounting Office and other agencies, has found and proposed solutions to long-standing problems—yet relatively little has ever been done.

We—Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW)—want to make sure something is done to implement the thousands of good ideas which undoubtedly will be proposed in the future, and in many cases these cost-saving ideas will come from you, the taxpayer.

WORKING TOWARD MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT AND LESS COSTLY.

CAGW is totally nonpartisan—it includes Democrats and Republicans, liberals and

conservatives, all united to make Government more efficient and less costly.

We are committed to a public education program to fully inform you, the American taxpayer, about how your Government—your elected representatives—are spending your money. We're going to encourage you to demand what is rightfully yours—an efficient and fiscally responsible system of federal government.

We intend to distribute and publicize information on Government waste and inefficiency and on ideas and opportunities for savings from all sources—the Congressional Budget Office, The General Accounting Office, Inspectors General in federal agencies, the media, independent agencies, federal employees, and private citizens.

We will ensure that you, the taxpayers and voters of this nation, have a clear idea of what underlies the Federal Budget debates and what the short- and long-term impacts may be for you and your children. We will provide you with facts, not emotional hyperbole, and let you decide.

We hope you will decide to join CAGW. Just call the toll-free number listed below to find out how you can help.

CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

1-800-USA-DEBT

1511 K Street, NW, Suite 540, Washington, DC. 20005, 202-628-6428

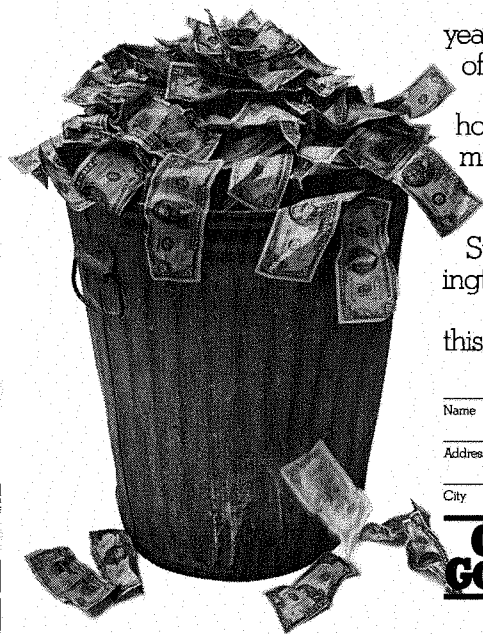
CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

1-800-USA-DEBT

1511 K Street, N.W., Suite 540, Washington, DC. 20005, 202-628-6428



ONE OF THE LARGEST FEDERAL DEPOSITORIES FUNDED BY YOUR TAX DOLLARS.



Waste in government. Every year it consumes over \$30 billion of your tax money.

For more information about how your tax dollars are being mismanaged and what you can do about it, call 1-800-USA-DEBT, or write us at 1511 K Street, N.W., Suite 540, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Our country can't afford this. And neither can you.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

**CITIZENS AGAINST
GOVERNMENT WASTE**
1-800-USA-DEBT

CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE CAMPAIGN
MAGAZINE AD NO. CAGW-1994-85—4 $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 5" (110 Screen)

CM-12-85

ONE OF THE LARGEST FEDERAL DEPOSITORIES FUNDED BY YOUR TAX DOLLARS.



For more information on how your tax dollars are being mismanaged, call 1-800-USA-DEBT, or write us at 1511 K Street, N.W., Suite 540, Washington, D.C. 20005.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

**CITIZENS AGAINST
GOVERNMENT WASTE**
1-800-USA-DEBT

CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT
WASTE CAMPAIGN
MAGAZINE AD NO. CAGW-1998-85
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 5" (110 Screen) CM-12-85