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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON December 14, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. DOLE

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Budget Appeals Re Veterans Administration

The attached appeal is not clear as to the aggregate gain or loss proposed for the Veterans Administration budget.

If all we are talking about is \$147,000,000 less growth, then it is not a major matter. Major matter or not, it is unlikely that any cuts can be made which are strongly opposed by the numerous Congressional supporters of these veterans groups. The President has a special relationship with veterans, and the V.A. cannot be treated as just another social spending agency.

I understand there is a "book" relating to the Veterans Administration budget in this cycle and that I am to see it in your office this afternoon.

In sum, there was not enough material in the attached appeal to evaluate the nature or intensity of public reaction from veterans groups.

				Document No			
WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM							
12/13/82		ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:			5:00 p.m. MONDAY DECEMBER 13		
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Remarks:

Attached is a revised budget appeal from the Veterans Administration. Please provide your comments to my office by 5:00 p.m. tonight.

Thank you.

	Richard G. Darman	
	Assistant to the Presider	nt
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Response: