

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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*Last Updated: 07/25/2025*

371918  
6J002

December 24, 1985

Dear Miss Sam and Miss Bertha:

Thank you for our gift -- the splendid (as always) leather engraving and most important, those wonderful quotes. They will be a valuable source for me in future speeches but also just to refer to for my own good feeling.

I've enclosed the Charlton Heston remarks, autographed by me as you requested. As for the baseball story there was no script on that, I ad-libbed. So enclosed is a handwritten account to Buzzy.

Again, my thanks.

Sincerely,

Misses Sam and Bertha Sisco  
Post Office Box 148  
Healdsburg, California 95448

Enclosures  
RR/AVH/sew 12PMNA

## CHARLTON HESTON'S

Remarks Re President, Variety Club Party His Honor, December 1, 1985

When I got here tonight, I wasn't sure what to expect...except a great party. Variety Clubs...and Francis Albert...guarantee that. A party for the President and the First Lady, on a first name basis... a great idea. Just like the old days.

Actually, at the Screen Actors Guild, it wasn't Dutch, but Ron...Ronnie, to the old hands. I was new on the Board, then, in his last year as President. We were in a tough strike and he'd put me on the negotiating team. I remember coming home one time at 4AM from a long session. As I was getting into bed, Lydia woke up. "How did it go?", she said. "Honey", I told her, "We've got a leader." Yeah. You could say that.

That's what I thought when the two of them came into the room tonight. But they walk a road now that we can't possibly know. And they walk it for us.

A little less than five years ago, in Washington at the ceremonies marking his first inaugural, I said, "Tomorrow at high noon on the steps of the Capitol, one man will take in his hand the most awesome power and influence ever held by a single human being. He will inherit more than just a constitutional legacy. He will be thenceforth forever wrapped in legend and myth.

He will also pick up a burden of responsibility that has no known counterpart in the civilized world. Ronald Reagan will become the lineal descendant of Washington and Adams, Jefferson and Jackson..Lincoln, Wilson, Roosevelt. With them, he will be linked to the very birth year of this republic." And so he has. So he has.

And here we are tonight...his friends. We watch him laugh, we see Nancy's foot tap to the music...but we know, sir...you are us. Every word you speak, or write, must be ours. Every choice you make, you make for us. To the world, you are America. Your "yes" is our "yes", your "no", is ours. You are, in the plural, but most singularly, every man and woman in this room...and in this nation. You speak to mankind in our names. You carry the torch flamed by Patrick Henry's passion for liberty, fueled by Tom Paine's common sense...and Tom Jefferson's most uncommon wisdom, lifted by the memory of those soldiers, known and unknown whose bodies, in your words, lie in the only foreign soil this country occupies.

The President. What do we pray for him? What do we wish from him and for him? What can he pledge to us? What can we say to help him?

American writers have spoken, eloquently, to this question. Among them, Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, have said, "It's a fabulous country...the only fabulous country...where miracles can happen all the time. I refuse to accept the end of man. He will prevail because, alone among all creatures, he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and endurance...and sacrifice. In this country, there is a willingness of the heart."

As you lead us into the uncertain, beleagured future...lead all of us, in the broad swell of continent between those shining seas, let me say, Mr. President, in the words of a song you'll remember: "God shed His grace on Thee."

Dear Buzzy

God shed his grace on thee -  
he truly did.

Warmest Friendship

Ronald Reagan

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Miss Sam & Miss Bertha

Thank you for our gift -  
The splendid (as always) leather  
engraving and most important  
those wonderful quotes. They  
will be a valuable source for  
me in future speeches but also  
just to refer to for my own  
good feeling.

I've enclosed the Charleston  
Horton remarks, autographed by  
me as you requested. As for  
the baseball story there was no  
script on that, I ad libbed.  
~~I've checked it~~ So enclosed is  
a handwritten account to  
Bugsy.

Again my thanks.

Sincerely  
Roosevelt

End  
Case  
File

371491  
H0016

December 26, 1985

Dear Pete and Ande (And I better not leave out Torrey and Pete II):

It was good to hear from you and to see your smiling faces even if in a photo and not in the flesh. Nancy and I both hope your holidays were all you wanted them to be. We miss you but are pleased to know that things are going so well. How could it be otherwise in California?

I'll be waiting for those jokes and hope they aren't the same ones I've heard since you left. If they aren't we'll take turns.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Lt Col Peter Metzger, USMC, and Mrs. Metzger  
3410 Putter Place  
Oceanside, California 92056

RR/PERSONAL DICTATION/AVH/lme

To Lt. Col. & Mrs. Peter Metzger

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Now based in San Diego - Mil. office  
should have his address.

Dear Pete & Anne

And I better not leave out  
Toeray & Pete II.

It was good to hear from  
you and to see your smiling  
happy faces even if in a photo  
& not in the flesh. Nancy & I  
both hope your holidays were  
all you wanted them to be.

We miss you but are pleased  
to know that things are going  
so well. How could it be  
otherwise in Calif.?

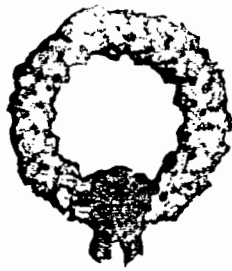
I'll be waiting for those  
jokes & hope they aren't the  
same ones I've heard since you  
left. If ~~so~~ they aren't we'll  
take turns.

God bless you all.

Sincerely  
RR



Christmas 1985



Dear Mr. President and  
Mrs. Reagan,

Christmas greetings  
from a warm and very  
sunny California! 1985 has been  
a great year for our family. I  
returned with my infantry battalion  
from a six month cruise in  
the Western Pacific; Tony and  
Peter are doing splendidly in  
school and sports and Auntie is  
busy with lots of tennis and  
making our lives full and  
wonderful.

We all miss you both  
very much and pray for you  
daily. I am sure that I will



be re-assigned back to  
Washington in 1987, but  
very much hope to see you  
both before then ... I have  
a few corny jokes I want  
to try.

With deepest respect and  
Sincerely,

Pete

End  
case  
File

372172  
WE003

December 27, 1985

Dear Mrs. Bumgardner:

Thank you for sharing your personal story with me. I am sorry this reply is so late in reaching you, but the press of business for the Summit and in Congress left me much less time than I would like to answer personal mail. I was saddened to learn of the burden you have been carrying; but your insight, which has been heightened through the grace of God, is a mighty talent for you to use to help others who find themselves in similar situations.

I want to assure you that your concern for the unborn is mine also. I'll continue to try to persuade the Senator to see the light, but we must remember that we lose all hope of winning the abortion fight if we lose our Republican majority in the Senate. I wish that there were no conflict at all in the alternatives presented to us, but this one is not of our making.

The devotion, hard work and prayers of Americans like you continue to be the surest guarantee that our side in this cause will prevail. I commend you and your colleagues and encourage you to press on.

God bless you for all the good you do.

Sincerely,  
RONALD REAGAN <sup>A</sup>

Mrs. Jeanne Bumgardner  
Post Office Box 8208  
Medford, Oregon 97501

RR/DE/CAD/AVH/jz 12PMNE

860103

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 1-2-85

To: Mike Daniels

The President wrote  
this, but do  
you have any  
problem w/ it?



ANNE HIGGINS  
Special Assistant to the  
President and Director  
of Correspondence  
Room 94, x7610

no - it's great!

Thanks for  
checking.

37E  
AH

October 10, 1985

Pres. Ronald Reagan  
White House  
Washington, D. C. 20050

Dear Mr. President;

I am Director of WEBA (Women Exploited by Abortion) in Medford, Oregon. I conduct support group meetings once a month for women who have been through the agonizing experience of abortion.

We all have somewhat different stories, but all of us have one common factor. That factor is the deception behind abortion. None of us ever knew the real truth about abortion until it was too late.

Another common factor we share is that our babies died during the abortions and we took part in their deaths.

Imagine, Mr. President, if you can, how extremely difficult this is for us to overcome. Some never do.

I am writing you now in response to your endorsement of Senator Packwood. I do not have to explain why I or any other pro-life person would be appalled by this endorsement. You know Senator Packwood's pro-death stance on this issue. Why on earth does America need a man who is behind killing 1.5 million of its' people every year?

In Ezekiel 33:6, it talks to you, me and the rest of God's people. This is what it says:

"But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes, and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood."

Mr. President, please continue to be the Godly watchman for the unborn and withdraw your endorsement from Senator Packwood's campaign.

This endorsement is the worst insult any of us exploited by abortion could ever receive.

If our nation continues to destroy the precious gift of life, that only God can give, then do we really have any hope of continuing to be one Nation under God?

Page 2  
October 10, 1985

Would Jesus endorse Senator Packwood? If your answer is "NO", then why are you? If your answer is "YES", then you have deceived us all on your convictions on abortion, and our children have died in vain.

I really love you, Mr. President. In 1984, I stood with some 20,000 people in Medford to get a glimpse of a man who wasn't afraid to stand for God's principles or speak out on them. I went to the polls that year and cast my vote for President Ronald Reagan.

Withdraw your endorsement, Mr. President, for all our sakes, born and unborn.

Yours for Life,

*Mrs. Jeanne Bumgardner*

MRS. JEANNE BUMGARDNER  
Director, WEBA  
P. O. Box 8208  
Medford, OR 97501  
779-2123

JB/slb

*I do continue to try to  
persuade the Sen. to see the  
light, but we lose all hope  
of winning the abortion fight  
if we lose our majority in the  
Senate.*

End

Case  
File



THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

December 27, 1985

The President has seen 1/4

OKR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BERYL W. SPRINKEL *Beryl W. Sprinkel*  
SUBJECT: The Administration Economic Assumptions for  
the 1987 Budget

CEA, OMB and Treasury have agreed on the economic assumptions to be used for the 1987 Budget. The major assumptions and the rationale are discussed below. The numerical values are shown in the attached table.

This forecast is conditional on the following policy assumptions.

For fiscal policy, we are assuming spending reductions consistent with the Gramm-Rudman guidelines. Also we assume that a major tax reform measure similar to your proposal is passed. These assumptions are important in determining the forecast GNP growth rate and continued declines in interest rates.

For monetary policy, we are assuming gradual steady reductions in the rate of growth of money in order to ensure continued progress towards price stability and reduced interest rates.

The real GNP and unemployment assumptions are similar to those assumed in last year's budget. The inflation assumption has been revised down sharply in the outyears. In our view the assumption should reflect your commitment to return to price stability. Consequently, we are assuming a gradual decline to 2 percent by 1991. The interest rate forecast has been reduced in line with the lower inflation forecast.

For real GNP, we assume growth of 4% for 1986, 87 and 88 slowing gradually to 3 1/2% in 1991. This forecast will be considered optimistic by some, but this rate of growth only returns GNP to postwar trend levels by 1991 (see Chart 1). A return to the postwar trend implies an acceleration in labor productivity growth to the postwar average rate of growth of 2.0%. This, combined with assumed average annual growth in the labor force of 1.5 percent and an additional 0.4 percent due to further declines in the unemployment rate, yields the real output growth forecast.

For the unemployment rate, we are assuming a gradual decline from the current level of 7 percent to 5 1/2 percent by 1991. Over the last 3 years, the decline has been much faster, but this period has been characterized by very rapid average output growth and below average productivity growth. Chart 2 shows postwar history and forecast levels of the unemployment rate.

For inflation, we are assuming an increase to 3.8 percent (from the current 3 percent) in 1986 and to 4.1 percent in 1987. These increases are due to the lagged effects of the high money growth rates that have already occurred and an assumed gradual near-term deceleration in money growth.

In the 1988-91 period we have assumed a gradual decline to 2 percent inflation. Measured inflation in the 1-2 percent range is very close to price stability given errors in measuring quality improvements. Chart 3 shows postwar history and forecast rates of change in prices.

For interest rates, we are assuming continued steady reductions in long term rates as markets recognize the commitment to price stability and inflation premiums are reduced. For short-term rates we are assuming an increase next year as real GNP growth accelerates and the Federal Reserve restrains money growth to prevent a major increase in inflation. Thereafter, we assume gradual declines in short-term rates as well. Reduced spending growth and a maintained commitment to a balanced budget are also important factors in the interest rate forecast. Chart 4 shows postwar history and forecast interest rates.

We are prepared to answer any questions and implement any suggestions you may have concerning these economic assumptions.

Attachments

cc: James A. Baker III  
James C. Miller III  
Donald T. Regan

# ADMINISTRATION ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

Table 1

	<u>Real GNP (1982)</u> <u>% Change 4Qtr/4Qtr</u>	<u>GNP Deflator</u> <u>% Change 4Qtr/4Qtr</u>
1984	4.7	4.1
1985	2.7	2.9
1986	4.0	3.8
1987	4.0	4.1
1988	4.0	3.5
1989	3.7	3.2
1990	3.6	2.5
1991	3.5	2.0

	<u>Total Unemployment Rate</u> <u>Annual Average</u>	<u>91-Day Bill Rate</u> <u>Annual Average</u>
1984	7.4	9.6
1985	7.1	7.5
1986	6.7	7.3
1987	6.5	6.5
1988	6.3	5.6
1989	6.1	4.8
1990	5.8	4.3
1991	5.6	4.0

	<u>10-Year Treasuries</u> <u>Annual Average</u>
1984	12.4
1985	10.6
1986	8.9
1987	8.5
1988	7.3
1989	5.5
1990	4.8
1991	4.5

CHART 1

# REAL GNP

Actual Data Through 1985 and Forecasts Thereafter

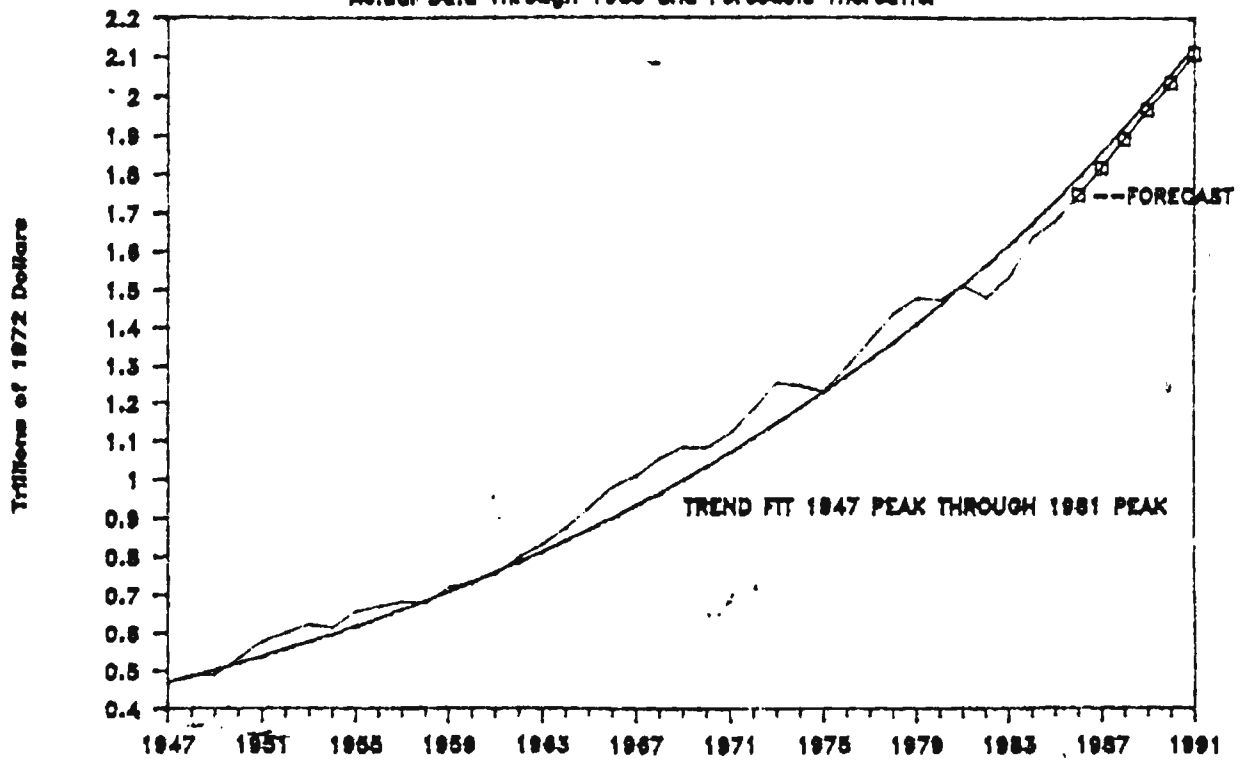
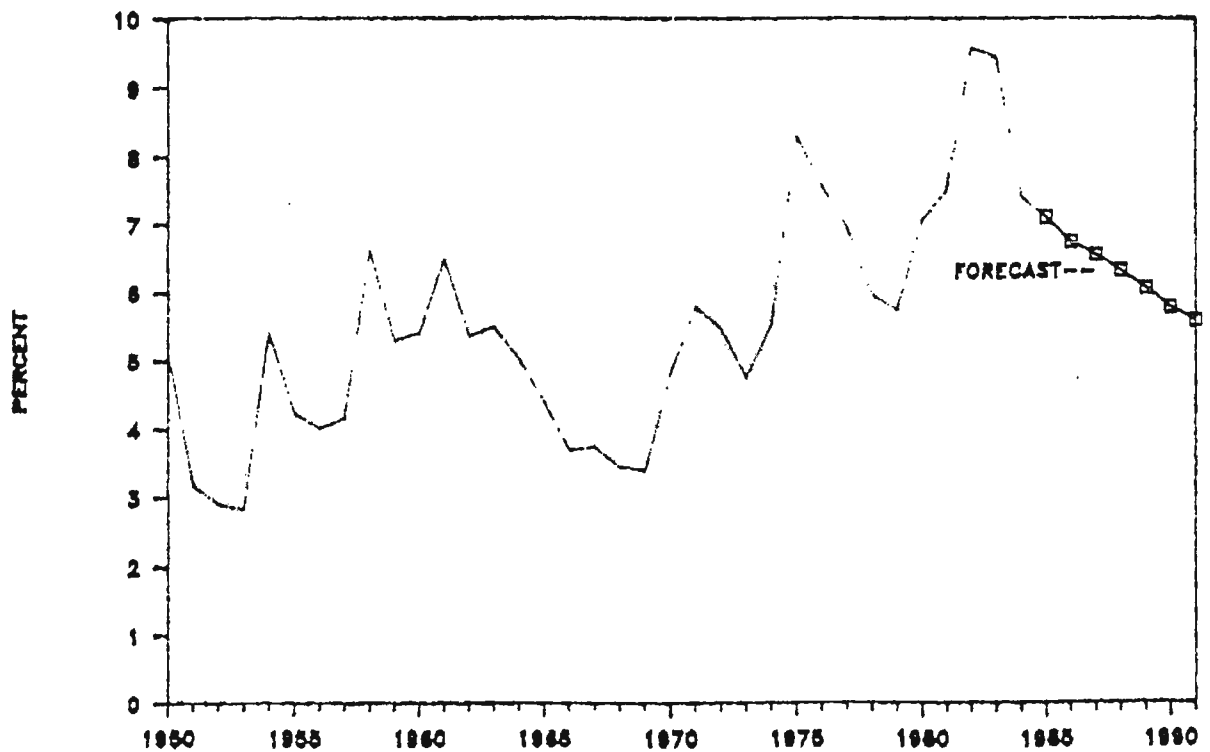


CHART 2

# TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Council of Economic Advisors (28 DEC 85)

CHART 3

# INFLATION RATE

PERCENT CHANGE IN GNP DEFLATOR

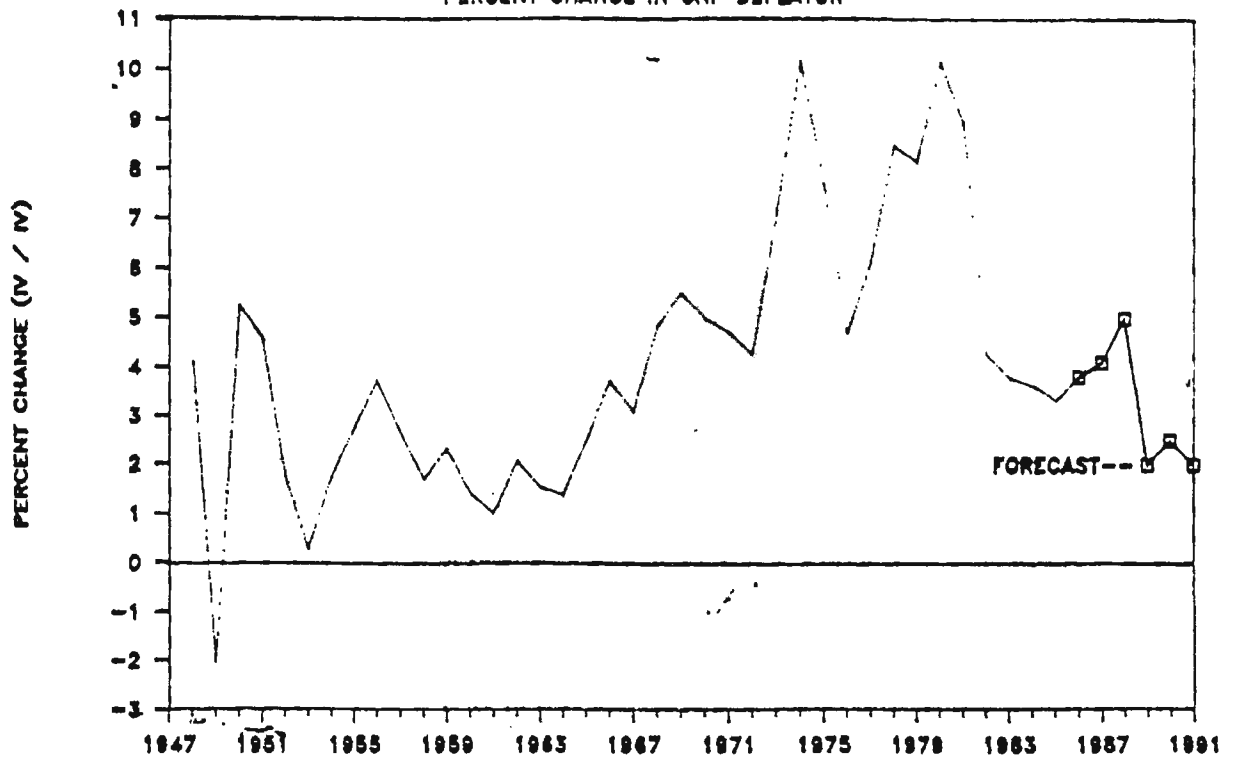
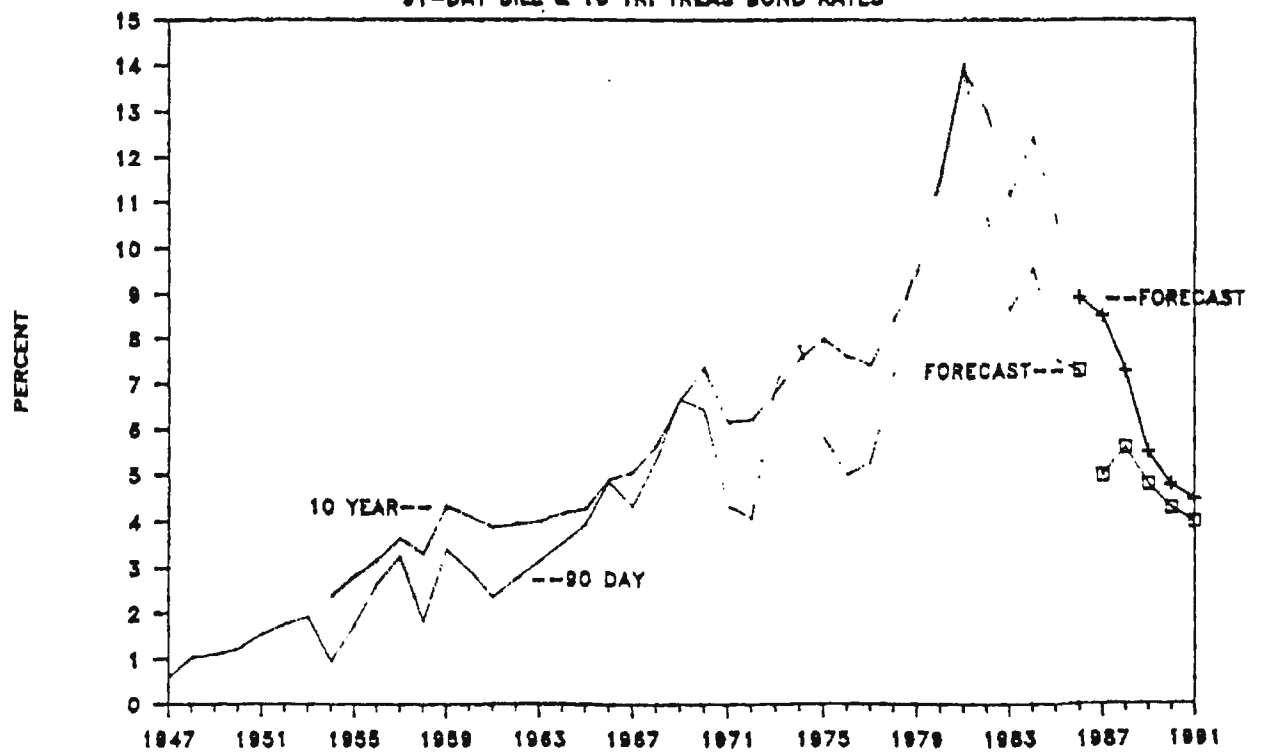


CHART 4

# NOMINAL INTEREST RATES

91-DAY BILL & 10 YR. TREAS BOND RATES



End  
Case  
File

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1987

33056355

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THE BUDGET REVIEW BOARD

SUBJECT: Presidential Decision on  
Space Administration FY 1988

The following issue presented to you on December 20th  
budget appeal by the National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration is outlined below for your guidance.

Space Station Funding

In your January, 1984, State of the Union Address, you directed NASA to develop a permanently manned Space Station and to do it within a decade. Since that time, the relatively low-cost planning phase of the project has been in progress. With that phase nearing completion, the FY 1987 NASA budget contains the first major funds for the development phase of the Station. On its present schedule, and at current budget estimates, the Space Station is projected to be operational in 1994 at a cost of about \$10 billion.

This year's initial NASA budget request included \$638 million for research and development on the Space Station, and envisioned a request of over \$1.3 billion in FY 1988. A NASA-proposed compromise drops their request to \$438 million this year and \$1.0 billion in FY 1988. This new funding path is still consistent with a 1994 initial operations date.

Primarily because of the FY 1987 budget restraints, but also for other reasons, the Office of Management and Budget has proposed delaying the construction phase of the Space Station for three years. Under the OMB position, funding for the Space Station would be \$110 million in FY 1987 and \$100 million per year for fiscal years 1988 and 1989. Funding would rise to \$434 million in 1990 and \$1.4 billion in 1991.

Your decision is required on whether OMB or NASA's compromise position should be included in your FY 1987 budget. If the NASA position is chosen, \$328 million in savings from other agencies will have to be found.

## Options

- 1) Start Space Station development in 1987 as planned.
- 2) Delay Space Station development until 1990.

### Option 1. Start Space Station development in 1987 as planned.

#### Pros:

- o Would complete the planned Station in the shortest time at arguably the lowest cost.
- o Would put in place at earliest opportunity a flexible Station that could evolve to take advantage of new technologies.
- o Would maintain faith with our allies, from whom we have been seeking commitments to participate. Allies may commit up to about \$4 billion for modules attached to the Station.
- o Would fulfill original Administration goal of having the Space Station operational by 1994.

#### Cons:

- o In view of funding levels for NASA likely to be approved by Congress, Space Station might come at the expense of maintaining a strong and balanced program of civil space research.
- o Depending on Congressional funding, the result could be greater international ill-will and wasted funds if Station falls off the 1994 schedule at a later point in time.
- o Would entail major commitments in funding before detailed cost estimates for the Station become available and before the recommendations of the National Space Commission could be considered.
- o Would possibly lessen flexibility for NASA to incorporate changes into the Space Station which would accommodate emerging technologies, such as the DOD Aerospace Plane.



Option 2.      Delay Space Station development until the 1990 budget.

Pros:

- o Would save \$328 million in FY 1987 and \$900 million in FY 1988.
- o Would continue the commitment to build the Space Station in the 1990's and allow a strong, balanced program of other civil aerospace research within overall funding levels likely to be approved by Congress.
- o Would delay construction before major U.S. and international funding commitments are made.
- o Would avoid major commitments in funding until better cost information is available on the Station (OMB maintains that NASA cost estimates have often been too optimistic in the past).

Cons:

- o Assuming Congress otherwise would allow for increased funding, would delay the commercial and international benefits of the Space Station, while perhaps increasing the cost of the project.
- o Might suggest to our allies that we are an unreliable partner and further encourage them to develop competing capabilities.
- o Might be perceived as a weakening of the U.S. commitment to leadership in space.

Decision

✓ RR *The NASA compromise,*  
Start Space Station development in 1987 as planned.

Delay Space Station development start until 1990 budget.

Other

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997  
By 6/22/91 NARA, Date 4/1/91

CLASSIFICATION

CIRCLE ONE BELOW

MODE

PAGES 7

IMMEDIATE

SECURE FAX # 09

DTG 280132Z DEC 85

PRIORITY

ADMIN FAX # \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASER \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTINE

RECORD # \_\_\_\_\_

P10 17

FROM/LOCATION

1. DENNIS THOMAS/LOS ANGELES

TO/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. TOM DAWSON/WHITE HOUSE

2. DAVID CHEW/WHITE HOUSE

TOR: 280221Z

INFORMATION ADDEED/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

Please leave in the Situation Room and call Mr. Dawson to  
notify him that the material from Dennis Thomas has arrived.  
Thank you.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

End  
Case  
File

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTONRECEIVED  
DEC 27 1985

December 27, 1985

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THE BUDGET REVIEW BOARD

SUBJECT: Presidential Decisions on Department of  
Defense FY 1987 Budget

The three issues presented to you in the December 19th budget appeal by the Department of Defense are outlined below for your guidance:

Issue #1: Military Pay Raise:

The Secretary of Defense requested a 5.2 percent military pay raise effective for the entire fiscal year. The Office of Management and Budget recommended a 3 percent pay raise with a 3 month delay. The Budget Review Board concurred with the Office of Management and Budget Recommendation. (The vote was not unanimous.) The Secretary of Defense appealed this decision.

A possible compromise would be to provide the military a 4 percent pay raise in October. In addition, \$200 million would be set aside for special bonuses in critical areas. In this option, OMB's estimated savings for FY 1987 would be reduced from \$2.3 billion to \$1.0 billion.

☐ Approve Budget Review Board Recommendation

☐ Approve Department of Defense Recommendation

☒ 4 percent compromise

☐ Other

Issue #2: Increased Civilian Retirement Contributions:

The Office of Management and Budget proposed that the Department of Defense absorb its share of the cost of the government-wide proposal to increase the current 7 percent government contribution to civilian retired pay by 2 percent in FY 1987 and an additional 1 percent in FY 1988 and FY 1989. The Budget Review Board concurred with the Office of Management and Budget. (The vote was not unanimous; by convention, pay increases for non-DOD civilians, including increased employer retirement contributions, are funded in a separate general account outside each agency's budget.) The Secretary of Defense appealed this decision. The amount at issue for FY 1987 is \$375 million.


☒  Approve Budget Review Board Recommendation

☐ Approve Department of Defense Recommendation

☐ Other

Issue #3: Special Defense Inflation Allowance:

The issue of whether to allow defense a special inflation allowance greater than the economy as a whole had been referred by the BRB to an OMB, CEA, DOD working group for resolution of what is basically a factual question. DOD had concurred in this prior to their appeal to you, yet Secretary Weinberger appeared to argue against reducing the allowance -- or, if reduced, against reducing defense funding to reflect savings. The amount at issue for FY 1987 is \$800 million.

☒  Approve BRB/DOD recommendation that a Working Group resolve the Special Commodities Inflation Allowance issue

☐ Other

Issue #4: DOD Topline:

The revised economic forecast contains lower inflation projections for the economy as a whole for FY 1987 through FY 1991. Accordingly, significant inflation savings -- \$1.2 billion in FY 1987, growing to \$10.7 billion in FY 1991 -- will be possible, while still maintaining 3 percent real growth in the outyears.

DOD argues that despite the revised inflation figures, and regardless of how you have decided the above issues, the DOD topline should remain at the \$314.7 billion figure included in last year's Budget Resolution. Secretary Weinberger fears that any reduction from this amount in your own budget would release Congress from its obligation to abide by this previous commitment. Therefore, any savings generated from reduced inflation, or from the decisions listed above, should be "plowed-back" in order to sustain the \$314.7 billion topline.

OMB proposes that savings from inflation and other decisions should be used to reduce the deficit. Because inflation adjustments do not affect programs, topline reductions can be achieved without endangering 3 percent real growth. OMB argues that if these topline adjustments are not made to reflect lower inflation, then the \$314.7 billion figures will represent real growth in excess of 5 percent and will be summarily rejected by Congress.

The compromise position on military pay (Issue #1), combined with new inflation adjustments, would produce the OMB-recommended savings in FY 1987 and even greater savings in the outyears.

☐ Approve DOD's recommendation for a topline request of \$314.7 billion.

☒ Approve OMB's recommendation for topline adjustments to reflect other decisions and new inflation assumptions while maintaining 3 percent real growth.

☐ Other. *I have a feeling I should know more about costs. Reasoning on this one - but if there isn't time for that C.K.*

### Conclusion

In conclusion, if these Defense adjustments are rejected in their entirety, including inflation savings from the revised economic forecast, then \$2.4 billion of additional savings must be found elsewhere in order to meet our \$144 billion deficit target for FY 1987. As a first step, this would require reconsideration of the modest accommodations that have been allowed Treasury, State, and Justice during the appeal process (\$400 million). Beyond that, OMB would suggest a further cut in the Department of Labor programs by terminating Job Corps (\$400 million); and a further delay in State Embassy Physical Security initiatives (\$300 million). Of course, all these further cut -

backs would be strenuously objected to by the Cabinet principals. Additional reductions would require further cuts in Medicare (in addition to the \$5.3 billion cut contemplated from current law); in Medicaid (in addition to the \$1.1 billion contemplated); and in various "safety net" programs (Food Stamps, AFDC, WIC, Child Nutrition, et cetera.)

DECLASSIFIED

White House Guidelines, August 20, 1997  
By Gregory NARA, Date 4/1/99

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION

CIRCLE ONE BELOW

MODE

PAGES 7

IMMEDIATE

SECURE FAX # 09

DTG 280132ZDEC85

PRIORITY

ADMIN FAX # \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASER \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTINE

RECORD # \_\_\_\_\_

P10 17

FROM/LOCATION

1. DENNIS THOMAS/LOS ANGELES

TO/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. TOM DAWSON/WHITE HOUSE

2. DAVID CHEW/WHITE HOUSE

TOR: 280221Z

INFORMATION ADDRES/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

Please leave in the Situation Room and call Mr. Dawson to  
notify him that the material from Dennis Thomas has arrived.  
Thank you.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION



End  
Case  
File

File

1

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Buzzy

Many years ago I was a radio sports announcer and used to broadcast by telegraphic report big league baseball games.

I would sit at a microphone in the studio and on the other side of a glass window a telegraph operator would receive from the ball park in Morse code each play of the game. He would type the message as it came in & slip it under the window to me. For example his note to me would say - S ONE C. That meant the pitcher had thrown a called strike to the batter and I would describe it as if I were at the game seeing it happen.

Well I was doing a game between the Chicago Cubs & the St. Louis Cardinals. The score was tied, nothing & nothing in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. A Cub player Billy Jungas was at bat. I saw my operator begin to type so I had the pitcher wind up & start his throw to the plate. Just then I was handed the slip of paper and it said: "The wire has gone dead". I had a ball on the way to the plate. The only thing I could think of that wouldn't get in the records was a foul ball so I had Jungas foul one down back of 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

My operator first shrugged and indicated

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

he was getting no message from the ball park.

There were several other stations broadcasting that game and I knew I'd lose my audience if I told them we'd lost our telegraph connection so I took a chance. I had Jurgens hit another foul. Then I had him foul one that only missed being a home run by a foot. I had him foul one back in the stands & took up some time describing the two lads who got in a fight over the ball.

I kept on having him hit foul balls until I was setting a record for a ball player hitting successive foul balls and I was getting more than a little scared. Just then my operator started typing. When he passed me the paper I started to giggle - it said: "Jurgens popped out on the 1<sup>st</sup> ball fitched."

I've waited a long time to tell that story. And didn't tell it until after I was no longer a sports announcer.

All the very best to you Buzzy.  
Give Miss Sam & Miss Bertha my  
very best regards.

Sincerely  
Ronald Reagan