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*Last Updated: 02/11/2025*

Statement on Budget

EVENT

March 9, 1981

DELIVERY DATE

DUE

DRAFT/KK

DATE: Sat, March 7

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL

DATE: Sat, March 7

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

WRITER: TD

RESEARCHER: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES:

STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET: MARCH 9, 1981

TODAY I AM SIGNING A MESSAGE THAT WILL GO TO THE CONGRESS TOMORROW -- A MESSAGE THAT ADDS HUNDREDS OF SAVINGS TO THE 83 MAJOR REDUCTIONS WE ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 18. THIS BRINGS OUR PROPOSED BUDGET OUTLAY SAVINGS FOR 1982 TO \$48.6 BILLION UNDER THE SPENDING LEVEL WE INHERITED.

IN ADDITION, I'M PROPOSING CHANGES IN USER CHARGES AND OFF-BUDGET PAYMENTS THAT WILL SAVE ANOTHER \$7.3 BILLION.

THESE ARE UNPRECEDENTED CUTS TO MEET AN UNPRECEDENTED PROBLEM, AND THEY MARK THE END OF AN OLD ERA AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ONE. WE ARE DETERMINED TO ENABLE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE RUNAWAY GOVERNMENT WHICH THREATENS OUR ECONOMIC VITALITY.

THE DETAILS OF THIS PROGRAM, WHICH HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP AND COMPLETED DURING THE PAST SIX WEEKS, WILL BE RELEASED TOMORROW. LIKE THE FIRST ROUND OF CUTS, THESE REDUCTIONS ARE EVEN-HANDED AND THE SAFETY NET OF BASIC INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMS REMAINS INTACT.

*ALTHOUGH IT IS NOW UP TO THE CONGRESS TO ACT ON THESE*  
PROPOSALS, I BELIEVE THAT THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO INVOLVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DIRECTLY  
IN THESE DELIBERATIONS. WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE VOICE OF  
THE AVERAGE AMERICAN -- NOT THAT OF SPECIAL INTERESTS OR  
FULL-TIME LOBBYISTS -- IS THE DOMINANT ONE.

THESE CUTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE LAST ONES. WE ARE  
COMMITTED TO A FIVE-YEAR SPENDING PROGRAM. WE WILL NOT LET  
BUDGET OVERRUNS OR UNEXPECTED CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY DIVERT  
US FROM OUR COURSE. I AM DETERMINED TO STOP THE SPENDING  
JUGGERNAUT. IF MORE CUTS ARE NEEDED TO KEEP WITHIN OUR SPENDING  
CEILINGS, I WILL NOT HESITATE TO PROPOSE THEM.

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I WOULD ALSO STRESS WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW: IF WE CAN CONTROL SPENDING AND SHAVE A FEW POINTS OFF THE INFLATION RATE, WE CAN DO MORE GOOD FOR THE POOR AND ELDERLY AND THE FINANCES OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THAN ANY PACKAGE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS EVER COULD.

THE REDUCTIONS CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE ARE PART OF A LONGER-TERM PROGRAM DESIGNED TO STOP INFLATION, REWARD ENTERPRISE AND INITIATIVE, AND PUT AMERICA BACK ON THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY. AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT AGAIN THE SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE BY CUTTING ITS SIZE AND SCOPE AND INSURING THAT ITS LEGITIMATE FUNCTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT EFFICIENTLY AND JUSTLY.

# # #

STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET: MARCH 9, 1981

TODAY I AM SIGNING A MESSAGE THAT WILL GO TO THE CONGRESS TOMORROW -- A MESSAGE THAT ADDS HUNDREDS OF SAVINGS, ~~MOSTLY~~ ~~SMALL ONES~~, TO THE 83 MAJOR REDUCTIONS WE ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 18. THIS BRINGS OUR PROPOSED <sup>Budget outlay Savings</sup> ~~REDUCTIONS~~ FOR 1982 TO \$48.6 BILLION UNDER THE SPENDING LEVEL WE INHERITED.

THE DETAILS OF THIS PROGRAM, WHICH HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP AND COMPLETED DURING THE PAST SIX WEEKS, WILL BE RELEASED TOMORROW. LIKE THE FIRST ROUND OF CUTS, THESE REDUCTIONS ARE EVEN-HANDED AND THE SAFETY NET OF BASIC INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMS REMAINS INTACT.

In addition, I'm proposing changes in user charges and off-budget payments that will save another \$8.3 billion.

insert

ALTHOUGH IT IS NOW UP TO THE CONGRESS TO ACT ON THESE PROPOSALS, I BELIEVE THAT THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO INVOLVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DIRECTLY IN THESE DELIBERATIONS. WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE VOICE OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN -- NOT THAT OF SPECIAL INTERESTS OR FULL-TIME LOBBYISTS -- IS THE DOMINANT ONE.

THESE CUTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE LAST ONES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO A FIVE-YEAR SPENDING PROGRAM. WE WILL NOT LET BUDGET OVERRUNS OR UNEXPECTED CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY DIVERT US FROM OUR COURSE. I AM DETERMINED TO STOP THE SPENDING JUGGERNAUT. IF MORE CUTS ARE NEEDED TO KEEP WITHIN OUR SPENDING CEILINGS, I WILL NOT HESITATE TO PROPOSE THEM.

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THE REDUCTIONS CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE ARE PART OF A LONGER-TERM PROGRAM DESIGNED TO STOP INFLATION, REWARD ENTERPRISE AND INITIATIVE, AND PUT AMERICA BACK ON THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY. AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT AGAIN THE SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE BY CUTTING ITS SIZE AND SCOPE AND INSURING THAT ITS LEGITIMATE FUNCTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT EFFICIENTLY AND JUSTLY.

# # #

These unprecedented budget cuts represent the prescription to an unprecedented problem.

These cuts are unprecedented in size

We have taken unprecedented actions because our ~~problems~~ economic ~~exist~~ problems are ~~unprecedented~~ unprecedented.

These are unprecendted cuts to meet an unprecedented problem, ~~and this marks~~ *they mark* the end of an old era and <sup>the</sup> beginning of a new ~~new~~ one. ~~The American~~ *We are determined* ~~this is the first step~~ ~~xxxx~~ to enable gain ~~for~~/the American people to ~~get~~/control of ~~the~~ the runaway government which threatens our ~~unprecedented~~ economic ~~stability~~ vitality.

March 7, 1981

Research  
DOB

## STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET, MARCH 9, 1981

Today I am signing a message that will go to <sup>the</sup> Congress tomorrow -- a message that adds hundreds of savings, mostly small ones, to the <sup>83</sup>~~80~~ major reductions we announced on February 18. This brings our proposed reductions for 1982 to \$46 billion under the spending level we inherited.

The details of this program, which have been drawn up and completed during the past six weeks, will be released tomorrow. Like the first round of cuts, these reductions are even-handed and the safety net of basic income support programs remains intact.

Although it is now up to <sup>the</sup> Congress to act on these proposals, I believe that <sup>the</sup> Congress and the executive branch have a responsibility to involve the American people directly in these deliberations. We must see to it that the voice of the average American -- not that of special interests or full-time lobbyists -- is the dominant one.

These cuts are not necessarily the last ones. We are committed to a five-year spending program. We will not let budget overruns or unexpected changes in the economy divert us from our course. I am determined to stop the spending juggernaut. If more cuts are needed to keep within our spending ceilings, I will not hesitate to propose them.

ed Dale, Omb.  
ext 6180 updated  
figures

P.O. Style Manual,  
p. 36, 44

P.O. Style Manual,  
p. 108

Webster's, p. 626

I would also stress what you already know: if we can control spending and shave a few points off the inflation rate, we can do more good for the poor and elderly and the finances of State and local governments than any package of Federal programs ever could.

The reductions contained in this message are part of a longer-term program designed to stop inflation, reward enterprise and initiative, and put America back on the road to prosperity. As I have said many times, our ultimate goal is to make Government again the servant of the people by cutting its size and scope and insuring that its legitimate functions are carried out efficiently and justly.

## STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET, MARCH 9, 1981

Today I am signing a message that will go to Congress tomorrow -- a message that adds hundreds of savings, mostly small ones, to the 80 major reductions we announced on February 18. This brings our proposed reductions for 1982 to \$46 billion under the spending level we inherited.

The details of this program, which have been drawn up and completed during the past six weeks, will be released tomorrow. Like the first round of cuts, these reductions are even-handed and the safety net of basic income support programs remains intact.

Although it is now up to Congress to act on these proposals, I believe that Congress and the executive branch have a responsibility to involve the American people directly in these deliberations. We must see to it that the voice of the average American -- not that of special interests or full-time lobbyists -- is the dominant one.

These cuts are not necessarily the last ones. We are committed to a five-year spending program. We will not let budget overruns or unexpected changes in the economy divert us from our course. I am determined to stop the spending juggernaut. If more cuts are needed to keep within our spending ceilings, I will not hesitate to propose them.

I would also stress what you already know: if we can control spending and shave a few points off the inflation rate, we can do more good for the poor and elderly and the finances of State and local governments than any package of Federal programs ever could.

The reductions contained in this message are part of a longer-term program designed to stop inflation, reward enterprise and initiative, and put America back on the road to prosperity. As I have said many times, our ultimate goal is to make Government again the servant of the people by cutting its size and scope and insuring that its legitimate functions are carried out efficiently and justly.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

March 6, 1981

NOTE FOR: Dick Darman

FROM: Glenn Schleede

SUBJECT: Completing Action on the March 10th Revised Budget

Several actions by the President and the Senior Staff will be needed over the next few days that I want to bring to your attention since some delicate scheduling may be involved. The principal (and hopefully the only) items are as follows:

1. Presidential statement: Preparations underway on another circuit, which you already know about.
2. Presidential transmittal message for budget revision document: We will get a draft to you (about 3 pages) later today. Usual review and approvals needed. We need to have a signed copy of the message by 11:00 a.m., Monday at the very latest to get it included with the revised budget document.
3. Presidential letter sending budget amendments to the House: By law, these amendments must be transmitted by the President. This letter goes to the House. The document to be transmitted (collection of budget changes) is about 1½ inches thick! This must go on Tuesday at the latest, which I assume means that it must be signed on Monday.
4. Initial Deferral and Rescission Package. We need to send up about thirty deferrals and 2 rescissions on Tuesday at the latest. The 2 rescissions (which are being forced by Members's complaints to GAO) cover Consumer Cooperative Bank and Youth Conservation Corps. Again, Presidential signature needed Monday.
5. Fact Sheet. We will get a draft to you this weekend. Final signoff on the final draft needed early Monday afternoon to permit printing and distributing with the revised budget starting at 6 a.m. on Tuesday.
6. Subsequent Rescission Packages for Presidential Signature: We should have the next package of rescissions ready by Friday, March 13th.

Please let me know if you see any problems.

cc: Ed Harper  
Dale McOmber  
Dave Gerson

Today I am signing a message that will go to Congress tomorrow -- a message that adds hundreds of savings, mostly small ones, to the 80 major reductions we announced on Feb. 18. This brings our proposed reductions for 1982 to ~~more than~~ \$46 billion ~~less than~~ <sup>under</sup> the spending level we inherited.

The details of this program, which ~~i might point out~~ has been ~~xxxxxxx~~ drawn up and completed has been discussed and completed in a little more than six weeks, <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ been carefully <sup>drawn up</sup> deliberated and then completed, in a little more than six weeks, after <sup>doing the work</sup> in less than six weeks, in office, will be released tomorrow but

I can cite a few examples. We've decided to hold up, pending further review, three big new water projects of the Army Engineers costing \$1.6 billion by the time <sup>they</sup> ~~the~~ are completed. We're going to maintain the social security burial benefit of \$225 for widows and orphans of the deceased but we are proposing to do away with it when there is no survivor to collect it. As you also know, this latest package will cut the federal government's employment by 63,000 persons from the level proposed by the earlier administration and our hiring freeze has already got that process well underway. Like the first round of cuts, <sup>vt.</sup> these ~~reductions~~ <sup>reductions</sup> are even-handed and the safety net of basic income support programs remains intact.

Although it is now up to Congress to act on these proposals, i believe that Congress and the executive branch <sup>have</sup> ~~share~~ <sup>a responsibility</sup> an obligation to ~~xxxxxxx~~ directly involve the American people in this <sup>deliberations</sup> budgetary process. We must see to it that the voice of the average American -- not that of ~~the~~ <sup>full-time</sup> the professional lobbyists -- is the dominant one.

These cuts <sup>will</sup> not <sup>necessarily</sup> be the last <sup>one</sup>. We are committed to a five-year spending program. We will not let ~~unexpected~~ budget overruns or unexpected exchanges in the economy divert us from our course. I am determined to stop the spending juggernaut. If more cuts are needed to keep within our spending ceilings, I will not hesitate to propose them.

I would also stress what you already know: if we can control spending and shave a few points off the inflation rate, we can do more good for the poorer and <sup>elderly</sup> and <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~fiscal~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~health~~ <sup>of</sup> state and local governments than any package of federal programs ever could.

The reductions contained in this message are part of a longer term program designed to stop inflation, reward personal initiative ~~initi~~ enterprise and ~~risktaking~~ and put America back on the road to prosperity. <sup>(As I have said many times)</sup> Our ultimate goal is to make government again the servant of the people by cutting its size and scope and insuring that its legitimate functions are <sup>carried</sup> out efficiently and justly.

Dale

Draft Budget signing statement for Monday p.m.

~~THIS MESSAGE~~

This message I am signing today will go to Congress tomorrow while I'm in Canada, to accompany a great fat book of further proposed budget reductions. As you know, we announced more than 80 important savings on Feb. 18, and this package contains literally hundreds of additional ones, mostly small, to ~~complete~~ <sup>complete</sup> a total proposed reduction in fiscal year 1982 of more than \$46 billion from the spending level we found when we got here. It is by far the biggest effort ever made to get control of this frightening juggernaut of Government spending, and I believe the public and Congress will support us. Success in this effort to tame the budget tiger is <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ keystone of our total program to turn around the economy.

The details will be released tomorrow, but I can cite a few examples. We've decided to hold up, pending further review, three big new water projects of the Army Engineers costing \$1.6 billion by the time they are completed. We're going to maintain the social security ~~burial~~ burial benefit of \$255 for widows and orphans of the deceased, but we are proposing to do away with it when there is no survivor to collect it. And there's another one dear to my heart: We are going to cut the Federal Government's total employment by 63,000 persons from the level proposed by the previous ~~Administration~~ Administration, and our hiring freeze has already got ~~that~~ that process well under way. Like the first rounds, these reductions are even-handed, <sup>safety net</sup> and the ~~basic~~ of basic income support programs like social security remains intact.

These cuts I am sending to Congress will not be the last. We are determined to hold total spending on the five-year track we projected last month, and we are not going to let budget overruns or changes in the economy throw us off that track. If more cuts are needed to keep within our spending ceilings, I will promptly propose them. For now, it's up to Congress, and I'm confident they will have the good sense and courage to follow through on this major endeavor.