

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RAY PRICE

SUBJECT: State of the Union - Watergate

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Price', is written over the 'FROM: RAY PRICE' line.

You asked me to try a few words on the Watergate insert.

Attached is one possible approach, plus a few supplementary notes that might be of help with other possible approaches.

Attachments - 2

Price

January 30, 1974

SOTU - WATERGATE INSERT - SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

I have made my decision -- and that is to look forward, not backward; to focus my energies and attention on the needs of 1974, not on the deeds of 1972.

\* \* \*

If the Congress should choose to move along the path of impeachment, I will fight it.

I will fight it to preserve the integrity of this office.

I will fight it because I know in my heart that the charges are false.

I will fight it in order to continue the work that I was elected to do, and that I intend to do, on behalf of the American people.

\* \* \*

During 1973, I went to unprecedented lengths in cooperating with the Watergate special prosecutors, with the grand juries, with the Senate Watergate Committee -- making White House staff available to testify, making documents and records available, to an extent that no President had ever done.

I hoped by doing so to bring the matter to a quick resolution, so that as a Nation we could put the whole matter behind us -- so that we could learn its lessons, and apply those lessons, but also get on with the rest of the work of Government.

But, exactly as I predicted last summer in resisting the subpoena for the tapes, each document fed a demand for more documents.

Each tape fed a demand for more tapes. Each answer to an old

charge brought forth a barrage of new charges. Each headline fed a desire for more headlines.

\* \* \*

As the new Watergate season opens this year, the Senate Watergate Committee, the Special Prosecutor's office and the House Judiciary Committee together have assembled staffs of more than \_\_\_\_\_ lawyers and other professionals, with budgets of more than \$\_\_\_\_\_ billion.

\* \* \*

Last summer, when at first I refused to turn over the tapes that were requested by the Watergate Committee, I said that one reason for that refusal was that each tape would raise questions

that could only be answered by other tapes and documents, and  
  
these in turn would require other tapes and documents -- that  
  
once the process was begun, there would be no end to it. Eventually,  
  
I did turn over the subpoenaed tapes. Now the Committee wants  
  
not 5 tapes, but 500; now the special prosecutor is asking for 40  
  
more; and the process I predicted has begun. Unless it is ended,  
  
somewhere, we will have Watergate Forever.

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