Date: March 13, 1973
Time: 3:13 pm - unknown before 11:59 pm
Location: Cabinet Room


[Recording begins while the conversation is in progress]

Department of Transportation [DOT]
  -Stockpiles
  -Reporting mechanism

Food prices
  -Butz’s briefing
  -Transportation of farm produce
    -Prices for produce
      -Existing stocks
    -Wheat
      -Exports
        -Japanese
    -Corn
    -Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC]
    -Prices
    -Method of shipment
  -Cattle prices
    -Increases
      -Concern
    -Beef production
      -Comparisons
        -Production
        -Prices
      -Demand for foodstuffs
    -Dairy farmers
      -Increase in production
  -Food prices
    -Import quotas
    -Controls
- Presidential decree
- Congressional action
- Japanese purchases
  - Pork
- Need for increased production
  - Lifting of restrictions
  - Soybean production
  - Wheat and corn
    - Amount of acreage
  - Changes in law concerning acreage
    - Farmers
    - Prices
- Soybeans
  - Areas of increases
- Legal aspects of control
  - Possible Presidential decree
- Exports
  - Increases
  - Japanese purchases
  - Balance of payments
    - Inflation
- Meat production
  - Previous White House meeting with producers
  - Factors in price increases
  - Exports
- Vegetable production
  - Status
  - Problems
  - Effect of price ceilings
    - Inflation
- Percentage to farmers
- Labor costs
  - Meat cutters
    - Chicago
  - Drivers
    - Philadelphia
  - Union rules
  - Increases
  - Effect on food prices
  - Meeting with George Meany
    - Need to control labor costs
    - Influence on retail food prices
Transportation
   - Effect on food prices
   - Railroads
      - Problems
      - Regional problems
      - Freight car shortages
         - Need for action
         - Winter wheat shipment
   - DOT action
      - Task force
         - Egil (“Bud”) Krogh, Jr.
      - Priority needs
      - Alternative means of transportation
      - Long-term problems
      - Regulatory action by Interstate Commerce Commission [ICC]
   - Work with ICC
      - W. Donald Brewer and George M. Stafford
   - DOT cooperation with railroads
      - Use of idle coal cars for grain shipments
   - Opening of ports
      - Canada
      - United States’ Coast Guard
   - Brinegar’s personal visits to grain areas
   - Long term problems
      - Use of freight cars
      - Current capacity of railroads
      - Problems of railroad industry
      - DOT action

Food prices
   - Current problems
      - Need for action by Cost of Living Council [COLC]
   - Projected increases
   - Administration approach to increases
      - White paper
      - Work with labor leaders
   - Current prices
      - Labor costs
         - Minimum wage
         - Administration action
         - Great Britain
NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/08)

- Food prices
  - Federal government action
    - Minimum wage rate
    - Effect on food prices
    - Influence of labor negotiators
  - Proposals
    - White House meeting on March 12, 1973
    - Alternatives
    - Opposition from United States’ Department of Agriculture [USDA] officials
    - Wall Street Journal article
    - Lack of impact of the President’s plan
- World-wide problem
  - Brussels trip by Whitman
    - Europe and Japan
- Credibility of administration
  - Statements by Administration
    - Price increases
- Import quotas
  - Effect
  - Tariffs
    - Cheese
    - Beef
    - Current restrictions
    - Imports
    - Health restrictions

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Strategic stockpiles

[To listen to the segment (7m42s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-613.]

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Food prices
  - Increases
    - Projections over next year
    - Projected relief
      - Ehrlichman
- Congressional reaction
  - Partisan demands for freeze
  - August 1971 economic action
- Price freezes
  - Doubts
  - Arguments for freeze
    - Meat prices
  - Dependence on labor actions
    - Ehrlichman’s efforts
    - Labor cooperation
- 1972 efforts
  - Options for 1973
    - Effect on prices
    - Wages
    - Inflation
    - Controls
- Phase II regulations on wages and prices
  - Implementation
  - Enforcement in food
  - Simon
    - Possible statement
      - Effect on prices, wages
      - Dangers of hoarding
- Results of a freeze
  - Cutbacks in production
  - Hoarding
    - Refrigeration
- Opposition to freeze
- Dunlop’s reaction
  - George P. Shultz
  - Labor cooperation
    - Talk with labor leaders
- Supplies
  - Effect on prices
  - Dangers of a freeze

Food stockpiling
- Accountability
- Weekly reports
  - USDA
    - Carroll G. Brunthaver
  - COLC
-Office of Management and Budget [OMB]
  -Malek
  -Strategic stockpile

-Food committee
  -Updates for White House
  -DOT reports
  -USDA reports
  -Future meeting

-Current supplies
  -C-rations
-Armed forces
  -Amount

Food prices
  -Housewife protests
  -Cutbacks in consumption
    -Effect
  -Hamburger
    -Stein’s speech in Charlottesville, Virginia
      -Press reports

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BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
[Privacy]
[Duration: _1m 25s_]  
END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
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USDA
  -Number of employees

Food
  -Consumption of red meat
    -Future

Instructions by President
The President left at 4:14 pm

[General conversation/Unintelligible]

Butz, et al. left at an unknown time before 11:59 pm

Conversation No. 119-2

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 8:38 am and 11:59 pm
Location: Cabinet Room


Briefing by Stein
- Economy
  - Food prices
    - Latest report
  - International monetary crisis
    - Dangers
    - Exchange rates
    - Transition

Domestic economy
- Expansion
- Unemployment
  - Reduction
  - Production increases
    - Strength
- Expansion
- Problem areas
- Food prices
  - Farm income
- World-wide inflation
  - United States’ devaluation
- Inflationary pressures
  - Expansion-oriented economy
  - Wage and price controls
- Food prices
  - Increases
  - End
  - Administration’s efforts
    - Stabilization
- Cattle and meat
  - Decline
- Inflation
  - Prices
  - Attitude of labor
    - Cooperation
- Standards of Phase III wage-price action
  - Wages
    - Cooperation between labor and management
- System of controls
  - Advantages
- Productivity
  - Gains in next year
  - Expansion
    - Moderation

Food prices
  - Release of report
    - Statement on causes
    - Expectations
- Decline of farm prices
  - Estimate of supplies
- Meat supplies
  - First quarter
  - Fourth quarter
  - Changes
    - Pork production
  - Meat
  - Administration’s efforts
  - Increases
-Public concerns
  -Supermarket prices
-Consumer Price Index [CPI]
  -Release to public
  -Increase in food prices
    -Increases in next few months
    -Transitory nature
-Impact on general inflation
  -Budget policy
    -Problems
      -Expansionary economy
      -Deficit
    -Importance
      -Compared to prices
-Administration’s policies
  -Controls as option
    -Problems
      -Farmers
      -Later increases
      -Upward pressure
      -Price and wage controls
      -Rationing
        -World War II experience
  -Food prices
  -Later problems
-Hansen and Bellmon
-Handling of problem
  -Administration’s efforts
-Control of marketing and processing
  -Political problems
    -Future
-Milk
  -Wisconsin representatives
    -Imports of dairy products
-Milk producers
  -Contributions to campaigns
    -Wilbur D. Mills
  -Bipartisanship
    -Wilson
  -Reducing imports
-Imports
  -Need for action
Dairymen
-Prosperity
Imported beef
-Administration position
-Repeal of tariff
Worldwide increase in demand
-Beef
-World-wide increase in consumption
-Grain harvests in the People’s Republic of China and the Soviet Union
-Impact on prices
-Rising expectations
Supplies of food
-High production
-Effect of price controls
-Inflation
Imports
-US increases
Cause of high prices
-Administration’s solution
-Increasing supplies
-Increasing imports
-Increasing production
Importance of issue
-Labor settlements
-Phase III wage-price action effect on labor
-Difference from Phase II
Labor settlements
-Railroads
-Amount of increase
-Peter J. Brennan
-Amount of increase
Administration action
-Influence of prices
-Labor demands
-Escalation
-Dunlop’s role
Administrations’s efforts
Solution to food price problem
-Intractability
-Interest groups
-Farmers, milk producers, and cattlemen
Imports
Influence on wage settlements
-Problem of demand
  -Inflation

Inflation
-Administration statements
  -United States’ rate
    -Comparison with other nations
    -Great Britain
    -Japan
    -Germany
    -France
    -Italy
    -United States’ economic performance
  -United States’ dollar
    -Strength
      -International markets
        -Currency

Wage settlements
-Processes

Stabilization program
-Dunlop’s briefing
-Legislative proposals
-Agricultural products
-Phase II
  -Problems
    -Distortion of economy
      -Prices
      -Wages
      -Transition
    -Domination of controls

Wages
-Influence of food price increases
  -Negotiations
  -Concern
  -Labor-management relations in 1973
    -Current state
      -Attitude toward work stoppages and strikes
        -Impact on imports
Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/08)

- Strikes
  - Extended lay-offs
- Need and desire for reform
  - Labor Management Advisory Committee
- Negotiations
  - Impact on economy
- Progress
  - Railroads
  - Teamsters
  - Importance
- Railroad settlements
  - Ratification problems
  - Exaggerations
  - Tax reductions
  - Wage settlements
    - Percentage increase
    - Fringe benefits
    - Pay Board
- Public statements
  - Sensitivity
- Teamsters
  - Negotiations
    - National agreement
    - Escalation of demands
    - Chicago teamsters
    - Agreement with national office
    - Effect on food prices
- Frank E. Fitzsimmons
  - Challenge from James R. (“Jimmy”) Hoffa
    - Parole
    - Split in union
    - Richard G. Kleindienst
    - Enforcement of parole
- Settlements
  - Fitzsimmons and George Meany
  - Source of problems
    - Level
    - Locals
    - Lack of control
- Railroads
  - Ratification
  - Misunderstandings
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Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/08)

-Effect on other unions
-Cost of Living Council [COLC] monitoring
  -Adherence to controls

Prices
  -Food prices
    -Statements
    -Government action
      -Labor wages
      -Increase of supplies
      -Sense of concern
  -Controls
    -Monitoring by COLC
  -Productivity
  -Mandatory controls of wages
  -Food
    -Control
  -Industrial prices
    -End of Phase II wage-price controls
      -Circumstances
  -Food
  -Raw materials
    -Increase of demand
      -Lumber
  -Stockpile
    -Control
      -Effect
  -Rents
  -Fuel
    -Gasoline price freeze
  -Energy
    -Future
    -Veto of legislation
      -Natural gas prices
      -Possible solution
      -Natural gas

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Stockpile
[To listen to the segment (5s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-613.]

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-Increase in supply
-Deregulation
  -Washington Post editorial
-Need for action
  -Congress
- Tennessee and Texas
  -Spending

-Rents
  -Surveys
    -Increases
      -Washington, DC
      -New Jersey area
  -Roll-backs
    -Internal Revenue Service [IRS]
    -COLC action

-Tower’s efforts
  -Legislation

-Rent control
  -Avoidance of controls
  -COLC and IRS role
  -Impact on supply

-Controls on food prices and agricultural products
  -Authority
    -Presidential discretion
  -COLC belief

-Implementation of controls

-Lumber
  -Senate Banking and Currency Committee hearing
  -Administration’s program
    -Expansion of supply
      -Environmental concerns
      -Work with Forest Service
        -Target levels
  -International trade

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International trade

[To listen to the segment (45s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-613.]

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-Violations of controls
-Reduction of supplies
-Conflicts between Budget Bureau and Forest Service
  -Allocations of funds
  -Purposes
  -Reforestation programs
-Prices
  -Phase II
  -Increases
    -Impact
  -Future supplies
-Export embargo in the 1960s
-Japanese purchases
-Increases

Vocational Rehabilitation Bill
- Congressional passage
- Veto by the President
  - Background
    - Spending
  - Deficiencies
    - Fiscal irresponsibility
    - Inflationary expectation
  - Expansion of program goals
    - Medical programs
  - Lack of management and accountability
    - Department of Health, Education, and Welfare [HEW]
    - Statutory authorities
    - Categorical grants
      - Lack of coordination
      - Dispersal of authority
- Support for veto
- Built-in failures
- Necessity of veto
-Need for support in Congress
-Budget allocations
  -Increases
-Veto of bill
  -Statement of reasons
  -Democratic opposition
  -Problems of sustaining
-Expenditures
  -Increases during administration
    -Amounts
  -New programs
  -Administration’s proposals
    -Compared to Congress
-Barry M. Goldwater
-Presidential statement
  -Veto of bill
    -Increased taxes
      -Publicity
      -Emphasis on prices and taxes
  -Vote in Senate
    -Number of Democrats
    -Tower

Vetoes
  -Votes in Senate
    -The President’s conversation with Ford
    -Numbers to sustain
    -Impact on House
  -Veterans bill
    -Confusion of issue
    -Disabled and Vietnam veterans
      -Universal health coverage
    -House action
    -Need to clarify issue
  -Votes in House
    -Timing
  -Veterans
    -Organizations
      -Efficiency
      -Letters to congressmen
    -The President’s message on veto
      -Timing
Bills in Congress
- Preparation
  - Economic stabilization
- Release of CPI
- Timing
  - Problem
  - Lyndon B. Johnson Administration

Vetoes
- Senate support
  - Sustaining veto
  - Need to win first bill
  - Help from White House
- Republicans
  - Party loyalty
    - Importance
- Rural Electrification Administration [REA]
- Agricultural constituents
- Vocational Rehabilitation Act
  - Impact in 1974 election
  - Impact on future elections
- Unity
- Budget issues
  - British system
    - Importance
      - Votes of confidence
  - Importance
- Democrats
  - Difference of priorities
  - Compared to Republican priorities
- Need for party loyalty
  - Test of executive control and responsibility
  - Consequences of failure
    - Tax increase

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Defense budget

Arms talks
Foreign policy

[To listen to the segment (14m13s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-613.]

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Leadership meetings
- Participation
  - Junior members
    - Usefulness

Request for figures from Dunlop

The President left at 10:26 am

[General conversation/Unintelligible]

Stein, et al. left at an unknown time before 11:59 pm

Conversation No. 119-3

Date: Unknown between March 20 and March 30, 1973
Time: Unknown between 10:26 am, March 20 and 1:00 pm, March 30, 1973
Location: Cabinet Room

George H. W. Bush [?] met with unknown people

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BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 6m 41s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

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Bush [?] and the unknown people left at an unknown time before 1:00 pm, March 30, 1973

Conversation No. 119-4

Date: Unknown between March 20 and March 30, 1973
Time: Unknown between 10:26 am, March 20 and 1:00 pm, March 30, 1973
Location: Cabinet Room

An unknown man met with an unknown woman

Cabinet Room
- Cabinet Officers
  - Positions held by George P. Shultz
- Seating
  - Anne L. Armstrong
  - Position
  - John A. Scali
- Cabinet Room table
- Gift

[General conversation/Unintelligible]

The unknown man and woman left at an unknown time before 1:00 pm, March 30, 1973