6-24-1974

President Richard M. Nixon to Dewey F. Bartlett, 24 June 1974


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Dear Senator Bartlett:

I welcome your letter of June 19 calling for a balanced budget. Needless to say, I certainly agree with the concern you express.

Over a year ago, when I submitted my budget for the fiscal year now ending, I stated, "The surest way to avoid inflation or higher taxes or both is for Congress to join me in a concerted effort to control Federal spending". That budget set out a series of administrative actions and proposed legislation to achieve necessary expenditure reductions.

I regret that Congress did not support either the actions I took to reserve various program funds or the cost reducing legislation and proposed terminations of wasteful federal programs that were set out in the 1974 budget. On the contrary, Congressional actions since that budget was submitted have added considerably to outlays for 1974 and especially for 1975.

You have asked that I submit proposed changes in programs and funding to meet the objective of a balanced budget for fiscal year 1975. We both know the difficult choices that must be made to restrain expenditures. Having indicated my own thinking in the budget submitted a year and a half ago, it would be my suggestion that the Congress reconsider the specific proposals made in that budget, along with the increased spending actions authorized and appropriated by the Congress since that time.
I would also take this occasion to strongly urge the Congress not to vote tax reductions. Such action would simply create an additional imbalance in the budget.

Finally, with regard to action in the Executive Branch I have instructed the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to do everything within his power to hold down 1975 expenditures, consistent with existing legislation, and to develop a budget for 1976 that will be in balance.

The American people should be encouraged to know that so many of their elected representatives in the Congress are taking a firm line on Government spending. I welcome your support.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Dewey F. Bartlett
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: see attached list
The Honorable Dewey F. Bartlett
The Honorable Paul J. Fannin
The Honorable Clifford P. Case
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Jesse A. Helms
The Honorable Henry Bellmon
The Honorable James L. Buckley
The Honorable William Lloyd Scott
The Honorable Peter H. Dominick
The Honorable J. Glenn Beall, Jr.
The Honorable Sam Nunn
The Honorable Wallace F. Bennett
The Honorable Lawton Chiles
The Honorable John Tower
The Honorable Edward J. Gurney
The Honorable Strom Thurmond
The Honorable Robert Dole
The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.
The Honorable Charles H. Percy
The Honorable Robert Taft, Jr.
The Honorable James B. Allen
The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
The Honorable Jennings Randolph
The Honorable William Proxmire
The Honorable Barry Goldwater
The Honorable Roman L. Hruska
The Honorable John Sparkman
The Honorable John L. McClellan
The Honorable Bill Brock
The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
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The Honorable James O. Eastland
The Honorable Hugh Scott
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The Honorable John C. Stennis
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The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
The Honorable Alan Bible
The Honorable Frank E. Moss
The Honorable William D. Hathaway
The Honorable Joseph M. Montoya
The Honorable Howard Metzenbaum
The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The Honorable Alan Cranston
The Honorable Hiram L. Fong
The Honorable Carl T. Curtis
The Honorable Quentin N. Burdick
The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
The Honorable Norris Cotton
The Honorable James A. McClure
The Honorable James O. Eastland
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510