

Summary of Points In Nixon's Speech On State of Union

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Summary of the main points in President Nixon's State of the Union message to Congress yesterday.

Congress, the President said, threatens to add \$6 billion to his \$268.7 billion budget in bills passed or now pending and has failed to make more than \$1 billion in cuts he asked. "Thus, if the Congress continues to follow its present course, the American taxpayers will soon receive a bill for more than \$7 billion in increased spending."

"I continue to be adamantly opposed to attempts at balancing the overall budget by slashing the defense budget. We are already at the razor's edge in defense spending... further cuts would be dangerously irresponsible and I will veto any bill that includes cuts which would imperil our national security."

Among other things, he asked for legislation to give him more flexible authority to raise and lower tariffs and to control exports of scarce foods and other goods.

He renewed opposition to

any tax increase, but urged tax reform to bring about a fairer and simpler system and a tax credit to help older people with low incomes pay their property taxes.

Of inflation, he said, "Americans want and deserve decisive action to fight rising prices."

He called for approval of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, construction of deepwater ports for super oil tankers, and freeing natural gas from regulations which he said have held prices artificially low and discouraged expansion of production.

The President also called for environmental standards for strip mining of coal to permit this method to be safely used to add to energy supplies; tripling of leases for oil and gas wells along the outer Continental Shelf, and cancellation of oil leases in the Santa Barbara channel off California and opening up instead inland oil reserves which had been set aside for national defense use.

In citing other national needs the President asked for:

- Legislation setting policy on land use.
- Safeguards against toxic substances.

Legislation to stimulate states to ensure safe drinking water.

Human Resources

- Shift of most educational programs from direct federal grants to giving money to states through revenue sharing.
- A revenue sharing approach to job training programs.
- Reform of federal standards that govern private pension plans so as to increase rights of workers, require more money to be put in and tighten administrative standards.
- Health insurance pro-

gram in which "public and private sectors join to bring the costs of quality care within every family's reach."

- Federal funds to demonstrate health maintenance organizations, a kind of group medical care.

- Legal services for the poor.

- Greater "self-determination" for Indians, along with more business opportunities and protection of their natural resources.

- An office of consumer affairs.

- Legislative authority to continue action, an agency combining several volunteer programs.

Communities

- Extension of FHA mortgage programs.

- A program to allow bankrupt railroads to restructure themselves, with \$125 million in federal assistance.

- Reorganized disaster relief, stressing local decision-making.

- More self-government for the District of Columbia.

Crime and Drugs

- Reform of the criminal code to bring clarity and consistency.

- Tough new penalties, including mandatory prison sentences, for heroin traffickers.

- Restoration of the death penalty for treason, assassination, certain acts of sabotage and espionage, and violation of selected federal laws in which death results.