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Douglas J. Bennet Jr.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

DOUGLAS J. BENNET, JR., STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN T. MC EVOY, CHIEF COUNSEL
ROBERT S. BOYD, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

January 30, 1976

Mr. Donald E. Ellisburg
General Counsel
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare
United States Senate
Washington D. C. 20510

Dear Don:

Senator Muskie is sending your Chairman a letter regarding this year's March 15 report. A copy of the letter is attached, along with some other materials which may help you and the Committee develop your report.

Several Committees have suggested that a standard format for the March 15 reports would be desirable. We have developed some standard forms, with instructions worthy of the IRS. You may find the forms useful, or you may find that they do not suit your Committee's needs.

From our point of view, it would be very helpful if you could use the forms. Last year, frankly, there was quite a lot of guesswork on our part as we tried to apply functional categories, account numbers, etc., to the Committees' reports. I am very anxious to ensure that we fully understand what your Committee has in mind, and urge you to use the forms for as much of the report as possible.

The forms may be used to reflect (i) new legislation affecting FY 77 and (ii) ongoing programs not scheduled for legislative action. Where possible, it would be helpful if you could advise the specific budget Appropriation accounts affected by the legislative items you list, particularly in the case of existing program. The work CBO and GAO are doing for your Committee in tying authorizing legislation to specific accounts should assist you in this.

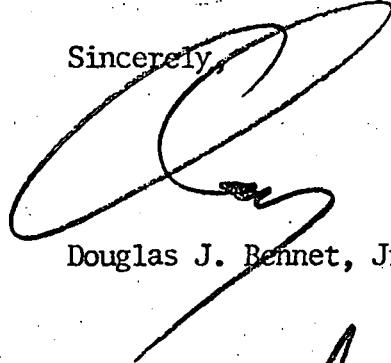
I am also attaching lists of (1) major new or expanded program proposals in the President's budget, and (2) proposed "restraints" in the President's budget. The letter to your Chairman seeks your Committee's recommendation on the priority we should accord to the items you report. If you do not wish to address this item formally in this report, I would be happy to discuss it with you informally.

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If we can assist with any part of your preparation of your March 15 report, please call me (224-0642), Sid Brown (224-0569), or Mike West (224-0561).

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.

Many thanks for your help
on the Jones.
DJ