

December 30, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

GEORGE SHULTZ

RE: RELEASE OF ECONOMIC DATA

Recently, economic data has been released at a time that was not politically advantageous. Specifically, I refer to:

- (1) The agriculture (farm) figures which were released just prior to the November elections;
- (2) The unemployment statistics which were released while the President was flying to New York to deliver his economic address. It is my understanding that this data was released two days earlier than the schedule required.

I know that the release dates are scheduled well in advance in order to reduce political pressure; however, I think we should be looking forward to the 1972 election and the timing of the release of economic data for the six months prior to November.

Have the schedules for the release of government economic data for the six-month period prior to the November 1972 election already been set? If not, can we exert any influence on this schedule?

Do we have or can we establish a warning system whereby we can know well in advance what economic data is scheduled to be released and a rough estimate of what that data might indicate?

Would it be possible to institute a system whereby economic data is released on scheduled dates, and not earlier?

The economic issue will be very big in 1972 and I think it's essential that we have a firm hand on the release of economic data.

If it's possible to influence scheduling of these releases, I think that you, Bob Haldeman and I should discuss this.

John D. Ehrlichman