



# NEW SOLIDARITY International Press Service

SPECIAL REPORT

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## GRID OF RESPONSES TO PRESIDENT FORD'S STATE OF THE UNION AND BUDGET MESSAGES

Jan. 24 (IPS) -- Following is a grid of press response to President Ford's State of the Union and budget messages prepared by IPS.

The grid is divided into two sections, United States press, and international press. The United States section comprises Midwestern, Eastern, and West Coast press, and the international press section contains the comments of Eastern and Western European press sources.

### I. UNITED STATES

#### MIDWEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jan. 20 -- Editorial attacks Ford for not emphasizing industrial production in his state of the union message, and for relying on budgetary gimmicks for his economic program.

Detroit News, Jan. 21 -- Front page news story strongly backs the President's call for an increase in military outlays. The conservative News also backs Ford's call for cutbacks in the role of big governmental institutions.

Chicago Sun-Times, Jan. 21 -- Editorial, "Ford Defense Budget Unwise," attacks President Ford for saying that the SALT talks may end without any agreement, and for expanding the defense sector instead of social programs. It terms the Ford proposals "woefully inadequate." In a back page news article, the Sun-Times reports that the additional defense outlays were actually proposed by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger.

Chicago Tribune, Jan. 21 -- Editorial praises President Ford's budget message. But two prominent news reports from Tribune correspondents in later editions term the budget "unreal" and "Alice in Wonderland."

Chicago Sun-Times, Jan. 23 -- Editorial on the President's budget proposals hits Ford's "twisted priorities." The editorial states that the nation needs improvement of living standards, even if economic scarcity indicates otherwise, and chastizes Ford for failing to heed earlier Sun-Times editorials calling for raising living standards. It concludes with a call to Congress to set the Ford priorities straight.

## EAST COAST

Boston Globe, Jan. 20 -- Editorial statement criticizes the President for not dealing with the major concerns of the country, but does not specify what those concerns may be.

New York Times, Jan. 20 -- Editorial entitled "A New Realism" terms President Ford's State of the Union message "standard and pedestrian." "Despite the Bicentennial trimmings," the Times states, "the President's doctrine of 'the less government, the better,' speaks a theme more familiar to his party's faithful that it is challenging to his nation's future."

Baltimore Sun, Jan. 20 -- Editorial terms State of the Union message President Ford's "campaign kickoff." It predicts that the Democrats will attack the President's proposals for hindering economic recovery, but states that if Ford can give a modest upbeat to the economic picture, his opponents should not underestimate him. News analysis in the same issue says that the speech was designed to withstand criticism from the Right and had something in it for everyone except Ronald Reagan.

Wall Street Journal, Jan. 21 -- Editorial says that "President Ford's State of the Union address was excellent in terms of rhetoric. In terms of substance, it was correct in thrust but marred by congenital gimmickry." The Journal especially praises the President's call for increased defense spending, and recommends a "stronger rhetorical stance" against the "Soviet buildup" to force the program through Congress. Ford's problem, the Journal concludes, is the Congress' tendency toward lack of restraint on spending, and his own need to resort to "political sugar-coating to disguise the (pro-big business) economic intent" of his program.

Boston Herald-American, Jan. 21 -- Editorial says that Ford's message is what "Middle America" wants to hear, and that is all to the good.

New York Times, Jan. 21 -- Lead editorial lambasts the President's speech as a "fantasy." The President's proposed budget ceiling of \$394 billion is unrealistic, even if no social programs are added, the Times says, claiming that the budget will grow by \$20 billion even if no social programs are added. The Times also blasts Ford on military spending, and attacks his statements on foreign policy as "superficial at best and misleading at worst."

Washington Post, Jan. 21 -- Editorial said that the President's State of the Union message was addressed to the voter who is fed up with Washington and does not believe it can do much to improve his life, who has lost faith with the quality of federal economic policy, and who is just as worried about inflation, as opposed to unemployment, as President Ford apparently is. The Post says that public reaction will begin to be seen in the spring, and that there may not be enough time for the country to recompose itself in the way Ford would want.

Baltimore Sun, Jan. 22 -- Editorial indicates low-key disapproval of the Ford budget proposals, stating that "legislative Democrats worry, with good reason, that hard-pressed state governments will use federal block grants to solve their own budgetary problems,

Baltimore Sun, Jan. 22 (continued)

cutting the social services that government as a whole provides to needy citizens." The Sun concludes that "it will be up to Democratic lawmakers to make the case for beneficent uses of the federal government in the interests of citizens wherever they live."

New York Times, Jan. 22 -- In a reversal of a long-standing pro-zero growth policy, the lead editorial attacks the Ford budget for promoting "a far lower rate of capital formation than the nation needs in order to provide it with the plant and equipment, energy, public utilities and other capital goods to furnish the greater productivity required to raise living standards." The President's budget, the Times explains, "will force the nation to continue to suffer from high unemployment ... unless Congress intervenes," and "will mean a lost output of real goods and services amounting to more than \$150 billion a year."

#### WEST COAST

Seattle Times, Jan. 21 -- Editorial in the Boeing-linked paper backs President Ford's call for a reduction in the role of big government institutions. Prominent news reports give favorable coverage to presidential proposals for austerity, increased defense expenditures, and President Ford himself.

San Francisco Examiner, Jan. 21 -- News story on the President's program ran a page one with the kicker: "The Poor Get Poorer."

San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 21 -- Editorial backed President Ford for basing his philosophical message on reality, while noting that the concrete programs were hardly new.

Los Angeles Times, Jan. 21 -- Editorial is "disappointed" in the President's budget, but says it is a good political statement. The Times calls for the federal government to take over welfare and other federal programs. On the other hand, the Times approves Ford's tax breaks for corporations which, it thinks, will aid ailing California companies.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Jan. 22 -- While this Hearst paper had no comment of its own on the President's proposals, it ran three New York Times analysis pinning Ford's speech.

#### INTERNATIONAL

German Democratic Republic, Stimme der DDR Radio, Jan. 20 -- Commentary stated that the President's State of the Union message presented "no program no concrete steps to solve the crisis." It said that President Ford "wanted to please everybody ... particularly inside his own Republican Party," and not to "lock himself into a fixed position."

Soviet Union, Radio Moscow, Jan. 2- -- A Radio Moscow broadcast emphasized the contradictions in President Ford's State of the Union speech. On the one hand, the commentary said, the President supported the conclusion of a Strategic Arms Limitation agreement, while on the other he refused to consider any reduction of the military budget.

W. Germany, Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Jan. 21 -- Editorial entitled "Ford and the Spirit of '76" states that the President's "faith in his own message does not appear to be very strong." The U.S. State Department-linked daily writes that "his New Realism, about which a lot has been made, is nothing more than the insight that even in this country of formerly unlimited possibilities, not every reform is achievable, and, that decisiveness even in the public budget is a virtue."

W. Germany, Frankfurter Rundschau, Jan. 21 -- Washington correspondent Monica Metzger dwells heavily on the contradictions in President Ford's State of the Union proposals, such as that between Ford's statements on the Third World and the proposed cuts in development aid.

W. Germany, Die Welt, Jan. 21 -- Die Welt states that the United States is down, and hoping that its problems will finally stop. It says that the majority of Congress is opposed to the Ford proposals.

W. Germany, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Jan. 21 -- Editorial terms the President's economic program a "backslide into Death Valley days." An article in the economics section says that the program contains nothing new and has no chance of being passed.

Great Britain, London Times, Jan. 21 -- Editorial says that the President "has concentrated so much attention on warding off this threat from his right that he has failed to make full use of his chief asset -- the presidency itself. Too many of his actions seem to have been inspired by political impulse, too few to bear the stamp of a Head of State." A news article in the issue warns: "President Ford presented the outline of an austere and conservative budget ... (he said) it was not possible for the government to introduce public works programs to reduce the (unemployment) figure." In other words -- no stimulation which might benefit Europe."

Great Britain, Financial Times, Jan. 21 -- Editorial says that the President's speech will be a disappointment to "those who are relying on U.S. demand to solve their own problems, as we to some extent are; but the laying of so sound a base promises a more reliable if less dramatic performance in the long haul, and that is what matters."

Sweden, Dagens Nyheter, Jan. 22 -- Washington correspondent Hans Svensson writes dispatch on the President's program titled: "Growth in the U.S.A. Is Braked Again."

France -- The French press was preoccupied with the crisis of the lira and the franc, and generally ignored President Ford's speech and program.