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Press Statement on Budget Negotiations 9/20/90 [OA 5377]

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Presidential Statement on Budget Negotiations

As the budget negotiators continue their meetings this afternoon, ^{I want to make it} ~~it has to be~~ clear to the American people that the goal of these negotiations is unchanged: we must fix the federal budget ^{and the federal budget process mess} once and for all.

^{a budget deficit agreement is necessary to help maintain our economic vitality, our competitiveness and our growth in job opportunities}
~~But~~ there are several tests this agreement must meet. I ^{really does} will insist on an agreement that ^{and it must contain real spending cuts!} promotes economic growth. I will insist on an agreement that is fair, credible, and real. And, I will insist on an agreement that addresses reform of the budget process itself.

^{When they are some who are looking for a way to get out from under the budget decisions until after the election that too is not acceptable}
I will not accept a temporary quick-fix that sweeps this problem under the rug. I will not accept a deal that fails to address ^{in a fool proof way} the government's ~~hidden liabilities~~ ^{deficit}. We must have a five-year, \$500 billion plan that keeps our country strong, competitive, and puts us on the path to long-term economic health.

^{The law requires that}
In the absence of a budget agreement, [^] sequester will begin in just over a week. We are now nine days and counting. A credible budget agreement will enable us to prevent the unnecessary disruptions that come with the automatic spending

~~cuts mandated by sequester. However, if it takes the sequester to drive this process to a successful conclusion, so be it.~~

Finally. some have suggested that we put off dealing with this issue until after the November elections. My answer to that is simple: No way. We must get this job done, and get it done now.

And one last thing: FUCK THE SEQUESTER!

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As the budget negotiators continue their meetings this afternoon, it has to be clear to the American people that the goal of these negotiations is unchanged: we must fix the federal budget mess once and for all.

But there are several tests this agreement must meet. I will insist on an agreement that promotes economic growth. I will insist on an agreement that is fair, credible, and real. And, I will insist on an agreement that addresses reform of the budget process itself.

I will not accept a temporary quick-fix that sweeps this problem under the rug. I will not accept a deal that fails to address the government's hidden liabilities. We must have a five-year, \$500 billion plan that keeps our country strong, competitive, and puts us on the path to long-term economic health.

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PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

AS THE BUDGET NEGOTIATORS CONTINUE THEIR MEETINGS THIS AFTERNOON, I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THE GOAL OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS UNCHANGED: WE MUST FIX THE FEDERAL BUDGET MESS AND THE FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESS MESS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

A BUDGET DEFICIT AGREEMENT IS NECESSARY TO HELP MAINTAIN OUR ECONOMIC VITALITY, OUR COMPETITIVENESS AND OUR GROWTH IN JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

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THERE ARE SEVERAL TESTS THIS AGREEMENT MUST MEET. I WILL INSIST ON AN AGREEMENT THAT REALLY DOES PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH. I WILL INSIST ON AN AGREEMENT THAT IS FAIR, CREDIBLE, AND REAL -- AND IT MUST CONTAIN REAL SPENDING CUTS. AND, I WILL INSIST ON AN AGREEMENT THAT ADDRESSES REFORM OF THE BUDGET PROCESS ITSELF.

I WILL NOT ACCEPT A TEMPORARY QUICK-FIX THAT SWEEPS THIS PROBLEM UNDER THE RUG. I WILL NOT ACCEPT A DEAL THAT FAILS TO ADDRESS IN A FOOL PROOF WAY THE GOVERNMENT'S DEFICIT.

WE MUST HAVE A FIVE-YEAR, \$500 BILLION PLAN THAT KEEPS OUR COUNTRY STRONG, COMPETITIVE, AND PUTS US ON THE PATH TO LONG-TERM ECONOMIC HEALTH.

IN THE ABSENCE OF A BUDGET AGREEMENT, THE LAW REQUIRES THAT SEQUESTER WILL BEGIN IN JUST OVER A WEEK. WE ARE NOW NINE DAYS AND COUNTING.

A CREDIBLE BUDGET AGREEMENT WILL ENABLE US TO PREVENT THE UNNECESSARY DISRUPTIONS THAT COME WITH THE AUTOMATIC SPENDING CUTS MANDATED BY SEQUESTER.

FINALLY, SOME HAVE SUGGESTED THAT WE PUT OFF DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE UNTIL AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. MY ANSWER TO THAT IS SIMPLE: NO WAY. WE MUST GET THIS JOB DONE, AND GET IT DONE NOW.

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I will not accept a temporary quick-fix that sweeps this problem under the rug. I will not accept a deal that fails to address in a fool proof way the government's deficits. We must have a five-year, \$500 billion plan that keeps our country strong, competitive, and puts us on the path to long-term economic health.

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