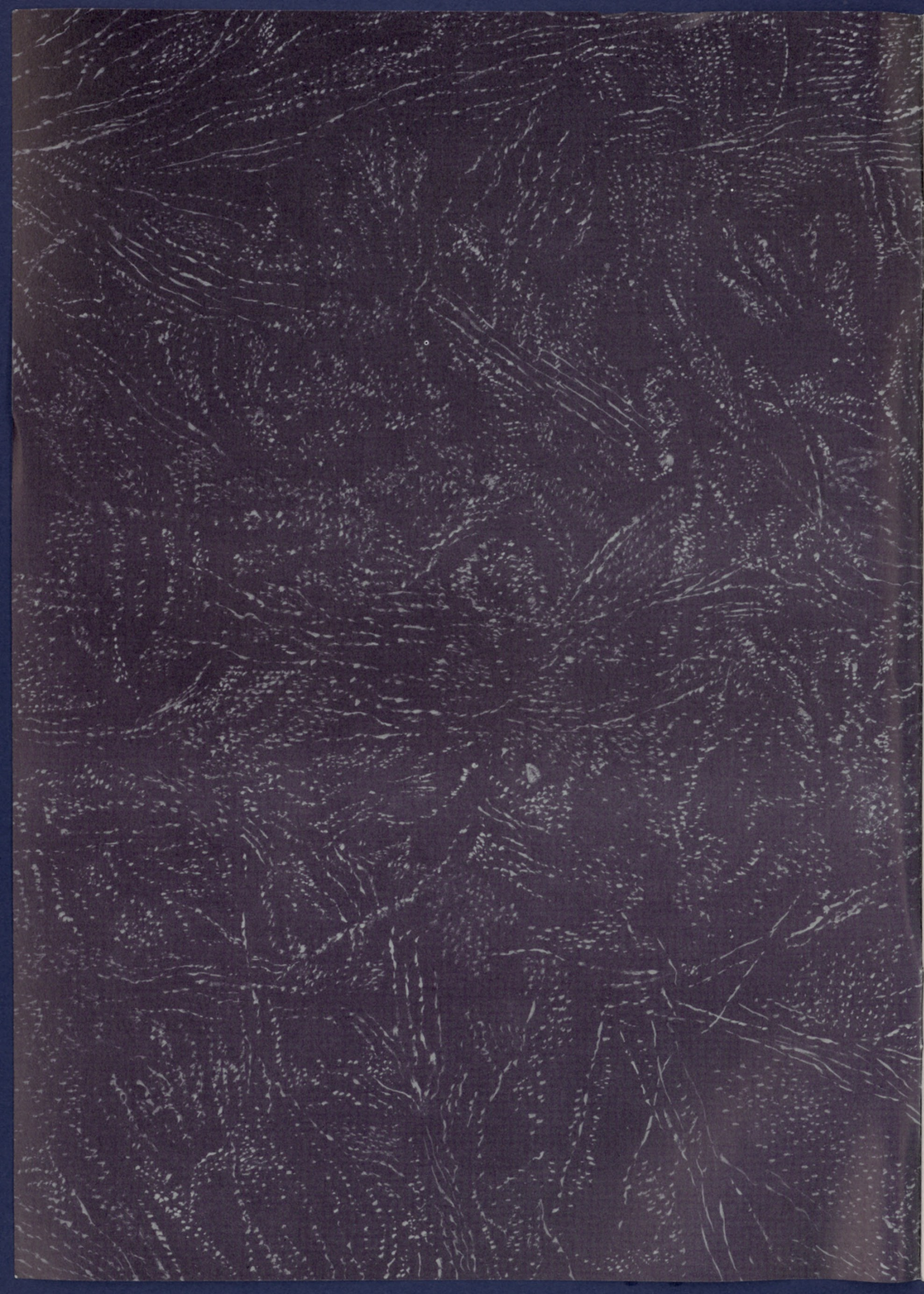


PRESIDENT'S CHOICE™







OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: The President

FROM: The White House Chief of Staff

☐ ACTION
☒ BRIEFING
☐ INFORMATION

Subject:

1. INTRODUCTION

Briefing Memo

The well-being of 235,000,000 Americans and, perhaps, the fate of the world rest on your stewardship of the economy. Over the next four years, you must make decisions that will affect economic growth, inflation, and social welfare. If you succeed, you will be reelected for another term; if you fail, you will be turned out of office.

As President you have:

- ☐ A briefing book
- ☐ Decision memos
- ☐ Meetings with the President's Council of Economic Advisors
- ☐ Replays of network news broadcasts
- ☐ The opinions of your political advisor



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2. LOADING THE PROGRAM

IBM®

To play the game:

1. **This is an auto-boot program. There is no need to add DOS to the disk.**
2. Put the program disk into the left-hand drive (Drive A).
3. Close the disk drive door.
4. Turn on the computer and the monitor.

The "Return" key on the IBM PC is the key marked "↵". This key is used to make decisions and to complete the entry of numbers. Whenever the "Return" key is referred to in the Briefing Book, use the "↵" key.

APPLE®

1. Insert the program disk and close the disk drive door.
2. Turn on the computer and the monitor. The program will start automatically.

COMMODORE 64™

1. Turn on the disk drive.
2. Put the program into the disk drive and close the disk drive door.
3. Turn on the monitor and the computer.
4. Type **LOAD "SPIN"**, 8. Press the **RETURN** key.
5. Once **READY** appears on the screen, type **RUN**.
6. Press the **RETURN** key. The program will start automatically.



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3. SAVING THE GAME

You may choose to save the game (so you can complete it at some later time) by pressing the **"S"** key during a **Decision Memo** or **News Report**. After you press **"S"**, follow the instructions that appear on the screen.

To save the game, you will need a new, formatted diskette. If you do not know how to format a diskette, look for the section entitled "Format" in the **Guide to Operations** book that came with your computer. The instructions there are very easy to follow.

You must have the formatted disk ready *before* you begin playing a game that you may want to save. There is no way to format a disk from within the President's Choice game. In addition, saving a game destroys all other information on the diskette so you may not want to use a disk that you have used for other purposes. Only one game may be saved on a single disk.

To restart a saved game, select the appropriate answer on the decision memo that asks you:

Start the game.

RESTART A SAVED GAME.

Create a new version.

Then just follow the instructions on the screen.



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4. STARTING YOUR TERM IN OFFICE

When you begin your term in office, you will be asked a series of questions regarding the use of sound and music during the game.

Many of the events during your term are accompanied by sounds and music. If you do not want to hear the music, you may turn it off for the entire game by typing "N" when the prompt appears on the screen.

Starting the game:

At the beginning of the game you are asked if you want to start the game, restart a saved game, or create a whole new version.

Your party affiliation:

After you register as a Democrat or Republican, you will see a welcoming message from your White House Chief of Staff. Press any key to skip this message if you like.

Starting your term:

Now you are ready to begin. If this is your first time in Washington, we suggest that you **continue the inaugural briefing**. This is an overview of the day-to-day operations of the White House prepared by your staff. If you are familiar with these operations, you will want to **meet with the Council of Economic Advisors** to see the current state of the economy. If you are an experienced politician, you may choose to jump directly into the action by selecting **"Hit the ground running."**



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To answer any of these questions, press the **SPACE BAR** until your selection is within the box. Then press the **RETURN** key and the program will accept your choice. All of your decisions are made this way. Press the **SPACE BAR** to make selections, and then press the **RETURN** key when the box surrounds your choice.



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5. DECISION MEMOS

White House Memoranda are your means of communicating with your staff. There are three kinds of memos. **Decision** memos present you with choices about domestic, economic and political policy. **National Security** memos allow you to make decisions about international affairs. **Briefing** memos are for your information only; no decisions are attached to them.

To make a decision, use the **SPACE BAR** to position the box around your choice and then press the **RETURN** key. If you would like to review the economic situation before making a decision, use the **“\$”** key to call a meeting with your Council of Economic Advisors. You may also ask for your political advisor's opinion on the implications of your decisions. You call your political advisor by pressing the **“?”** key. Note that although your advisor is one of the most respected experts in Washington, her advice may not always be the best and you are ultimately responsible for all decisions.



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6. THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS

The President's Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) is responsible for maintaining a databank of up-to-the-minute economic and political statistics. When you call a meeting with the CEA, you may ask to see any of the information contained in the databank. This information is indicated on the CEA Menu. The categories of information you may view are:

- ☐ A **summary economic report** listing the current values of several important indicators of economic activity.
- ☐ A "Chart book" containing graphs showing the historical values of economic data.
- ☐ The results of past **national public opinion polls**.
- ☐ A region by region breakdown of your performance on the most recent **regional public opinion poll**.
- ☐ Use the **[SPACE BAR]** or the **arrow** keys to select the information you want to see and then press the **[RETURN]** key when the box surrounds your choice. To leave the meeting and return to the most recent menu of choices, press **["ESC"]** (**[CTRL]** on Commodore 64) key.

Here is the content of the summary economic report:

1. **Dow Jones industrial average**
2. The change (in percentage points) in the Commerce Department's **index of leading indicators** over the previous month. This index is a composite of several measures of business conditions that is thought to be a good forecaster of the economy's future course.
3. Rate of growth of **real GNP**. Real GNP (Gross National Product) is a measure of the economy's total output of goods and



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services corrected for changes in prices. The summary economic report shows the change in real GNP for the previous month measured as an annual rate of change.

4. **The inflation rate.** This is the rate of increase of consumer prices measured as an annual rate.

5. **Unemployment rate.** The unemployment rate measures the percentage of the labor force that is not working.

6. **Home mortgage interest rate.** This is an average of the interest rates paid by home buyers on new mortgages during the last month.

7. **Commercial bank prime rate.** The prime rate is the interest rate charged by banks for short-term loans to the largest and most financially stable corporations.

8. **Government surplus.** This is a measure (in billions of dollars) of the balance of the government budget. It measures the difference between government tax revenue and spending at annual rates. A negative budget surplus is also called a deficit.

9. **Change in business inventories.** The change in business inventories over the last month (measured at annual rates in billions of dollars) is another statistical measure that, like the index of leading indicators, is said to predict future changes in the economy.

Graphs of all the data in the summary plus other measures of economic activity are in the CEA chartbook. Choosing "**Show economic data**" from the CEA Menu opens the chartbook. To select the data you want to see, use the **SPACE BAR** or the **arrow** keys to move the box to an item. Then press the



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RETURN key. The item selected will be highlighted. To see the graph of the data, press **"P"** (for plot). The graph shows the values for the item over the past two years. You may view a single item or any two at once to compare trends. Note that you may "unselect" an item by pressing the **RETURN** key when a highlighted item has been selected.

The CEA databank also contains the results of political popularity polls. If you select the **"public opinion summary,"** you will see a graph of your popularity over the last two years or since you entered office. If you select the **"regional public opinion poll summary,"** you will see a map of the U.S. with your popularity rating indicated for nine geographic regions of the country. These regions are:

New England

- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut

Middle Atlantic

- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania



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East North Central

Ohio
Indiana
Illinois
Michigan
Wisconsin

West North Central

Minnesota
Iowa
Missouri
North Dakota
South Dakota
Nebraska
Kansas

South Atlantic

Delaware
Maryland
District of Columbia
Virginia
West Virginia
North Carolina
South Carolina
Georgia
Florida



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East South Central

Kentucky
Tennessee
Alabama
Mississippi

West South Central

Arkansas
Louisiana
Oklahoma
Texas

Mountain

Montana
Idaho
Wyoming
Colorado
New Mexico
Arizona
Utah
Nevada

Pacific

Washington
Oregon
California
Alaska
Hawaii
Puerto Rico



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7. THE BUDGET

In the fifth month of your term and every twelve months thereafter, you will convene a special meeting of the CEA to prepare your budget recommendation for Congress. There are four steps to the budget preparation process. These steps are indicated on the Budget Menu. They are:

Prepare/Revise Expenditure Proposals. Here, you will decide how much to spend in each of 16 categories of programs. A complete expenditure proposal covers three pages. To set an expenditure level for a program, use the **[SPACE BAR]** and the arrow keys to move the box to the category you want to change and then enter a new number. To enter a number, just type it in and press the **[RETURN]** key. The new number will replace the old one. The chart shows last year's expenditures and your staff's suggestions for the new budget. When you are satisfied with the expenditure proposals, press the **["ESC"]** (**[CTRL]** on Commodore 64) key to return to the menu.

Prepare/Revise Tax Rate Proposals. Now, you have to prepare your revenue proposals. The tax rates shown on the chart are measured as a percentage of the relevant base. That is, a figure of 15% for the personal tax rate means 15% of personal income while the figure for the corporate income tax rate applies to corporation income. There are two pages for your tax proposals and tax rates are set in the same manner as expenditure levels. The composite tax rate is the CEA's estimate of proposed taxes as a percentage of GNP.



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Review Estimated Effects of Proposals. After setting proposed tax and expenditure levels, you may see the CEA's estimates of the overall government budget. Since many tax and expenditure categories are sensitive to the level of economic activity, these estimates are shown for a range of assumptions about the unemployment rate. Note that it is very difficult for the CEA to make accurate forecasts and these estimates may be in error.

Submit Completed Proposals to Congress. When you are satisfied with your proposals, you must submit them to Congress. Of course, Congress does not have to go along and the budget they finally approve may differ from the one you submitted. -

You may choose to repeat this process, setting tax and expenditure levels in order to fine-tune your budget proposals before submitting them to Congress.



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8. NEWS REPORTS

The White House staff monitors network news broadcasts and sends them to the Oval Office when your schedule permits. During a news broadcast, you may stop and restart the videotape by pressing the **SPACE BAR**. You leave the news report by pressing the **"ESC"** (**CTRL** on Commodore 64) key. You will be especially interested in two news broadcasts. These are the mid-term Congressional election and the Presidential election. Both of these reports show the number of seats your party has won in the House of Representatives. You may stop and restart the report at any time by pressing the **SPACE BAR**. Your party's success in mid-term Senate races is shown at the end of the election. During the Presidential election, you will see the proportion of the popular vote you receive in each state, and your standing in the electoral vote.



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9. KEY PERSONALITIES

During your term as President, you will have to deal with a number of key political personalities. Here are some background notes on these people prepared by your executive staff.

Dr. Waldo Hightower

Dr. Waldo Hightower is chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors. Dr. Hightower is a famous academic economist who won the Nobel prize in economics for his pioneering study of the effects of anchovy exports on the economic development of Paraguay during the 19th century. Dr. Hightower is new to Washington and some of your advisors are concerned about his lack of political experience.

Dr. Margaret Kessler Bowen

Dr. Bowen was appointed chairperson of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors by your immediate predecessor. Dr. Bowen is a professional economist with a long career of government service. She has no political aspirations but your advisors are concerned that she sometimes places the interests of her agency above those of the administration.

Senator Frank Cassidy

Senator Cassidy is the senior senator from the state of Pennsylvania. He is one of the most powerful forces on Capitol Hill. During the last Presidential campaign, his supporters led a "Cassidy for President" drive but it fell short when you defeated him in the West Virginia primary.



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Congressman J.P.D. Staley Carruthers

Congressman Carruthers is serving his 21st term as congressman from Jackson County, South Carolina. Mr. Carruthers is chairman of several influential committees of the House of Representatives. He is author of the book, "Carruthers of Congress," a collection of anecdotes about the realities of American politics.

General John Pershing Wright

General Wright is Air Force Chief of Staff. He has an engineering degree from M.I.T. and was one of the first jet fighter aces of the Korean war. General Wright is concerned that the U.S. is losing its military preparedness.

Edward P. "Buddy" Crocket

Mr. Crocket is an influential financier and industrialist. He is President of the Permian Oil and Gas Company and is financially involved in a number of other enterprises. He often represents his business interests in Washington by serving as a lobbyist.



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10. CREATING A NEW VERSION

After you have played President's Choice many times, you may want to create a new version of the game involving different issues and events. Since the creation of a new version may take up to five minutes, you should play the first version several times before you make a new one. Note that games saved under one version of President's Choice may only be played under that version.

To create a new version of President's Choice, select the appropriate answer on the decision memo that asks you:

Start the game.

Restart a saved game.

CREATE A NEW VERSION.

Then follow the instructions on the display screen.

The process that creates a new game involves selecting information from the scenarios disk and transferring it to the program disk. You will need both the program disk and the scenarios disk to do this. The process is time-consuming and may take from four to five minutes. You may not interrupt the process once it starts; you must carry it through to completion. If something happens in the middle of the process (such as a power failure), both the new and old versions are lost. If something does go wrong, you will have to start President's Choice over again and then create a new version from scratch. But, there is no way for the President's Choice program itself to be damaged.



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APPENDIX A. SUMMARY OF PLAYER ACTIONS

Here is a brief summary of the various ways the player controls the game.

☐ Decision memos

1. Press the **SPACE BAR** to make selections.
2. Press the **RETURN KEY** ("↵") to accept the selection surrounded by the box.
3. Press the **"?"** key to call your political advisor.
4. Press the **"\$"** key to meet with the CEA.
5. Press the **"S"** key to save the game.

☐ CEA Chartbook

1. Press the **SPACE BAR** (or arrow keys) to make selections.
2. Press the **RETURN KEY** to pick items to be plotted.
3. Press the **"P"** key to plot the data.
4. Press the **ESC** key to move on to the next step.*

☐ The Budget

1. Press the **SPACE BAR** (or arrow keys) to select an expenditure or tax category.
2. Type in numbers and press the **RETURN** key to set expenditure or tax levels.
3. Press the **"ESC"** key to return to the budget menu.*

☐ News Reports

1. Press the **SPACE BAR** to stop and restart the display of the news reports.
2. Press the **"ESC"** key to leave the news report.*
3. Press the **"S"** key to save the game.

*For Commodore 64, press **CTRL**



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APPENDIX B. SUGGESTED READINGS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Federal Reserve System Purposes and Functions

Published by the Federal Reserve Board, Washington, D.C.

Survey of Current Business

Published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S.
Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

Economics

By Paul A. Samuelson, published by McGraw-Hill,
New York, New York.

Consult your local public library for these and other sources.

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