

## BUDGET CONFERENCE

June 16, 1982

After several postponements while behind the scenes work goes on, they meet and CBO goes over changed figures.

Metz. objects to 1985 interest rate assumptions. They'll be off by 8 billion for each point they miss.

Domenici reads letter from RR from State Dept. asking to support Senate figures. Upset about letter--said everyone had letter and didn't like that tactic. Sen. figures are high.

They take up function 150 - Jones Solarz talks vs. House figures. HR = 900M below this year. He support Senate figure. Latta argues for House figures. Latta & Solarz argue and Senate sits there waiting. Jones says "we've got to come up with a House position." But he says they won't vote till tomorrow.

The H. Dems ask H. Repubs to see what papers the H Repubs. are working from.

The Dems ask Latta where his cuts will come from and Latta begs off. "I'm not going to sit here and tell you where the FAffairs Com ought to make these reductions." He and talk at same time.

The House guys fight each other.

Someone asks for Energy explanation. House guys are talking about reductions from the prior year and arguing about their own bill. Sen's have nothing to say.

Charlie Flicker comes by. "We can't do anything substantive. Nobody is ready to put anything on the table." "How long do you think this posturning will go on?" "The trick is to get the Republicans on both sides to agree to report it out."

Downey pushes Latta - sarcastic. Looking for program details.

Jones "we're not making much progress. I suggest we recess till 10:30 tomorrow."

Tom Foxwell tells me that Republican minority on House side is woefully understaffed, that Dems have all the staff. They have 4 guys, he says--by way of explaining why Latta is having trouble getting the energy figures Downey keeps pressing for.

I see Nick Masters. He notes Dems have majority of conferees. I ask him if they are going to be passive. He says "pretty passive." I said "You mean, let's you and him fight." He smiled and said yes. He asked me how it was going - said I should really get on the "inside." I said it takes me 10 people to find out what I used to be able to find out from one person. He said "more like 20." I think that's a big change since 60s. It hurts me and it must slow down the process.