

Budget Approval Process

Gerald R. Ford: Well, because of my exposure, fourteen years on the committee on appropriations in the House of Representatives, where I served on three of the major subcommittees, nine years as the Republican leader where I continued my interest, the budget problems and fiscal policy were always number one on my agenda. And, of course, this interest was heightened by my experiences as president in submitting three budgets to the Congress and to the American people. And because it became sort of a hobby, I've closely followed the budget process in the Congress and you can't avoid looking at the budget results.

In my view, number one, the budget process is in total shambles. The most recent evidence, first the fiscal year 1988, that budget was not completed until three months after the beginning of the fiscal year. Secondly, most of you know that two gargantuan pieces of legislation which were approved in the waning days, just before the adjournment. The first a reconciliation bill that dealt with tax policy and entitlements. Secondly, a huge seven-hundred billion dollar appropriation bill that normally and properly would have been handled by thirteen appropriations subcommittees.

Ford, Gerald R. "Budget Approval Process" in "Speech of June 6, 1988." Speech. Washington, DC, June 6, 1988. National Press Club. Library of Congress.
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/record/pressclub/ford.html>.