

110990



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

IN REPLY
REFER TO: B-115398

November 26, 1979

To the President of the Senate and the
Speaker of the House of Representatives

On October 1, 1979, we received copies of the
President's first special message for fiscal year 1980
~~that was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the~~
Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message
contains one rescission of \$113,673 and 30 deferrals
totalling almost \$1,003.2 million of budget authority.

Our comments on the information submitted in the
special message of October 1, 1979, are enclosed.

Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosures

OGC 80-3

007910



110990

GAO COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST
SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1980

Except as noted below, we conclude that the information provided in the rescission and deferral proposals is correct and that the actions being proposed have been clearly and accurately stated.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY

R80-1 Special International Exhibitions
 (Special Foreign Currency Program)
 67X0069

Based on the current legislative calendar, the 45-day period of continuous session during which the funds may be withheld pending congressional consideration of a rescission bill ended on November 15, 1979, without the Congress having passed such a bill. Under section 1012(b) of the Impoundment Control Act, the funds proposed for rescission must be made available for obligation. We will monitor this account to determine when the subject budget authority is apportioned by the Office of Management and Budget to the agency and the funds are allotted to the program.

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

D80-1 International Security Assistance
 Economic Support Fund
 11X1037

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

D80-2 Forest Service
 Timber Salvage Sales
 12X5204

D80-3 Forest Service
 Expenses, Brush Disposal
 12X5206

B-115398

D80-4 Forest Service
 Restoration of Forest Lands
 and Improvements
 12X5215

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

D80-5 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 Administration
 Construction
 13X1452

D80-6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 Administration
 Coastal Zone Management
 13X1451

Because of issues raised concerning this deferral, our investigation of D80-6 has not been completed. In order not to delay our report to the Congress on the other impoundments in the President's first special message, we will report separately on D80-6 as soon as our investigation is concluded.

D80-7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 Administration
 Promote and Develop Fishery Products
 and Research Pertaining to American
 Fisheries
 13X5139

The funds involved in this deferral were released by the Office of Management and Budget for obligation by the agency on October 17, 1979.

D80-8 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 Administration
 Fisheries Loan Fund
 137/04317

Funds have been deferred since fiscal year 1975 from this account, which expires September 30, 1980. There are indications from NOAA that the funds will be allowed to lapse. However, since the deferral is proposed for only part of FY 1980, we are withholding any determination as

B-115398

to whether the actions concerning this account constitute a rescission. We will monitor this account and report to the Congress on any actions taken concerning the release or rescission of the funds involved.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

D80-9 Military Construction
D80-10 Wildlife Conservation

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

D80-11 Energy Programs
Fossil Energy Construction
89X0214

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

D80-12 Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental
Health Administration
Construction and Renovation at
St. Elizabeth's Hospital
75X1312
D80-13 Human Development Services
White House Conference on Aging and
White House Conference on Families
75X1636

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

D80-14 Heritage Conservation and
Recreation Service
Land and Conservation Fund
14X5005
D80-15 Geological Survey
Payments from Proceeds, Sale of Water
Minerals Leasing Act of 1920
14X5662
D80-16 Bureau of Mines
Drainage of Anthracite Mines
14X0956

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

D80-17 Federal Prison System
Buildings and Facilities
15X1003

The amount shown as deferred should now be \$37,741,400 instead of \$22,853,300. Our review of this deferral establishes that an additional \$14,888,100 was deferred since the date on which this special message was sent to the Congress. OMB informs us that a subsequent deferral message will soon be sent to the Congress to address the changes affecting this account.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

D80-18 United States Emergency Refugee
and Migration Assistance Fund, Executive
11X0040

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

D80-19 Civil Supersonic Aircraft
Development Termination
69X0106

Civil Supersonic Aircraft
Development
69X1358

D80-20 Federal Aviation Administration
Facilities and Equipment (Airport
and Airway Trust Fund), FAA
69X8107, 697/08107, 699/18107

D80-21 Urban Mass Transportation
Administration
Urban Mass Transportation
Fund (Interstate Transfers)
69X1119

Contract authority is the subject of this deferral. The Congress is presently considering H.R. 4440 making appropriations for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 1980. The bill as reported out of committees

of both Houses of Congress rescinds the contract authority made available or authorized for interstate transfer grants by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. If the bill is passed, the program would be funded through appropriations.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

D80-22 Office of Revenue Sharing
State and Local Government
Fiscal Assistance Trust Fund
20X8111

D80-23 Office of Revenue Sharing
State and Local Government
Fiscal Assistance Trust Fund
20X8111

D80-24 Bureau of the Mint
Construction of Mint Facilities
20X1617

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

D80-25 Emergency Planning, Preparedness,
and Mobilization
58X0200

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

D80-26 Payment of Vietnam Prisoner of
War Claims
79X0104

The Department of State, Justice and Commerce, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act for fiscal year 1980, Public Law 96-68, September 24, 1979, provided for the transfer of \$1,030,000 from this account for salaries and expenses necessary to carry on the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. Consequently, the amount deferred has been reduced from \$1,800,000 to \$860,000 to provide the funds necessary for the transfer.

B-115398

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY

D80-27 Acquisition and Construction of
Radio Facilities
67X0204

NATIONAL ALCOHOL FUELS COMMISSION

D80-28 Salaries and Expenses
48X1700

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY

D80-29 Salaries and Expenses
489/11600

NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN RELOCATION COMMISSION

D80-30 Salaries and Expenses
48X1100

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

D80-31 Payment to the Tennessee
Valley Authority Fund
64X4110