



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

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IN REPLY
REFER TO: B-115398

November 6, 1979

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

On September 27, 1979, the President's thirteenth special message for fiscal year 1979 was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message proposed four new deferrals of budget authority totaling approximately \$61.9 million and a revision to one previously transmitted deferral increasing the amount deferred by approximately \$3.8 million as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

D79-37A Forest Service
Timber Salvage Sales
12 X 5204
12 X 1126

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

D79-66 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Construction
13 X 1452

D79-67 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Fishing Vessel and Gear Damage
Compensation Fund
13 X 5119

D79-68 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Fisherman's Contingency Fund
13 X 5120

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

D79-69 Regional Rail Transportation
Protective Account
60 X 0110



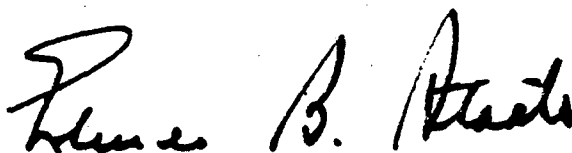
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The justification for deferral D79-69 indicated that the funds authorized for the program would be exhausted by September 30, 1979. Therefore, \$1 million was deferred for the remainder of fiscal year 1979 to pay for any retroactive adjustments necessitated by a final audit of this account. Our review of this deferral established that an additional \$26 million remained in the regional rail transportation protective account at the end of fiscal year 1979 because of an overestimation in the rate of disbursements from the account during fiscal year 1979. Accordingly, the program did not terminate as expected on September 30, 1979, and payments will continue to be made during fiscal year 1980 until the \$26 million remaining in the account is exhausted. The Office of Management and Budget has informally advised us that a new deferral of \$1 million for the same purposes outlined in D79-69 is expected to be transmitted during the first quarter of fiscal year 1980.

Except as noted above, we conclude that the information provided in the thirteenth special message is correct and the actions being proposed have been clearly and accurately stated.



Comptroller General
of the United States