



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

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098271

May 3, 1976

B-115398



Speaker of the House
President of the Senate

The purpose of this letter is to report the status of impounded budget authority for proposed rescissions included in the President's 10th special message, dated January 23, 1976.

Section 1012(b) of the Impoundment Control Act requires the funds proposed for rescission to be made available for obligation unless the Congress completes action on a rescission bill within a prescribed 45-day period. In twelve cases, congressional action was not completed and the prescribed 45-day period expired on March 19, 1976.

Rescission Bill H.R. 11665, which was enacted on March 25, 1976, rescinded the full amounts proposed for rescission by the President for the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Road Construction (R76-41); the Department of State, Mutual Exchange and Cultural Exchange Activities (R76-42); and the Selective Service System, Salaries and Expenses (R76-44).

For the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Public Lands Development Roads and Trails (R76-40), \$4.9 million was rescinded. The remaining \$3.9 million, proposed for rescission but rejected by the Congress, was made the subject of deferral message D76-12B reported to the Congress on April 13, 1976. We will comment on this proposed deferral in our report to Congress on the President's 13th fiscal year 1976 special message.

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3 For two rejected rescission proposals (R76-37 and R76-33), we are unable to report the release of all the budget authority because, at present, OMB has released only part (FY 1976 portion) of the budget authority that was proposed for rescission. The reason for not releasing the total amounts impounded is because the rescission proposals included transition quarter budget authority which, according to the Antideficiency Act, is not required to be apportioned until 20 days prior to the period in which they become available: 27

2 --For the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Health Resources (R76-37), OMB has apportioned \$67 million of the \$69 million proposed for rescission. The remaining \$2 million is transition quarter budget authority which will, according to Agency officials, be released by July 1, 1976. 22

--For the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Health Services Administration (R76-33), we have confirmed that OMB has apportioned \$103,159,000 of the \$127.8 million in budget authority proposed for rescission. The remaining \$24,645,000 still being withheld is for the transition quarter and OMB officials state the funds will be released by July 1, 1976.

For two cases we are unable to report the release of funds because of administrative delays at the Agency level. We plan to follow up on the release of funds in the following cases and will report to the Congress at a later date if warranted:

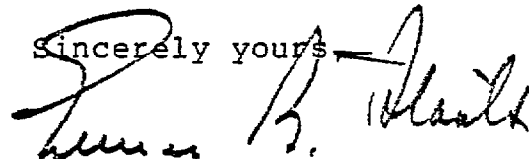
--The \$103,159,000 reported above (R76-33) as being apportioned by OMB to the Health Services Administration has not been made available for obligation by the Agency because, according to HEW officials, there have been delays in program and administrative planning.

5 --For the Community Services Administration, Research and Demonstration Projects (R76-43), we have confirmed that the \$2.5 million in budget authority proposed for rescission has been apportioned to the Agency by OMB. However, the funds have not been made available for obligation by the Agency because of a delay in formulating program plans. CSA officials also state they do not want to implement the program until the new Director assumes responsibility. 17

We have confirmed that the total budget authority proposed for rescission in the following messages has been apportioned by OMB to the respective Departments and they have released it for use.

<u>Rescission number</u>	<u>Department and program</u>	<u>Amount released</u>
R76-29	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farmers Home Administration Rural Housing Insurance Fund	42 \$500,000,000
R76-30	Food and Nutrition Service Special Milk Program	40,000,000
R76-31	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs (Planning III)	4,000,000
R76-32	DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Corps of Engineers, Civil Construction, General	3,600,000
R76-34	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE Health Services Administration Indian Health Services	5,294,000
R76-35	Center for Disease Control Preventive Health Services (Project Grants--Rat Control)	7,690,000
R76-36	Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration	56,500,000
R76-38	Office of Education Indian Education	15,000,000
R76-39	Assistant Secretary for Human Development, Human Development	2,000,000.

Sincerely yours



James B. Stewart
Comptroller General
of the United States