



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548



OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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IN REPLY REFER TO: B-196797

August 6, 1980

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

The purpose of this letter is to report on the status of budget authority that was proposed for rescission, but for which Congress failed to pass a rescission bill as defined in section 1011 of the Impoundment Control Act. In the President's ninth special message for fiscal year 1980, dated May 20, 1980, the President proposed the rescission of \$12.4 million in budget authority that had been made available to the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Assistance, Research and Statistics for law enforcement assistance (rescission proposal R80-59).

Section 1012(b) of the Impoundment Control Act requires that funds proposed for rescission be made available for obligation unless the Congress completes action on a rescission bill within the 45-day period of continuous session of the Congress following the day such proposal is received by the Congress. For rescission proposal R80-59, the 45-day period ended on July 27, 1980, without the Congress having passed such a bill.

In the 1980 Supplemental Appropriation and Rescission Act, enacted July 8, 1980, as Public Law 96-304, Congress rescinded \$4,439,446 of this account. The balance of the budget authority proposed for rescission in the ninth special message (R80-59) was then apportioned by the Office of Management and Budget to the Office of Justice Assistance, Research and Statistics on July 25, 1980, and the funds were allotted to the program.

Milton J. Soclar

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General Counsel

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