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

B-205053

December 14, 1981

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

On November 13, 1981, the President's sixth special message for fiscal year 1982 was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message proposes one deferral of budget authority totalling \$108 thousand as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

D82-218 National Park Service
Historic Preservation Fund
142/35140



We discussed the Federal program for historic preservation in our report, "Are Agencies Doing Enough Or Too Much For Archaeological Preservation? Guidance Needed," CED-81-61, April 22, 1981. We recommended that States be encouraged to play a greater role in identifying sites with historical significance, through development of improved State historic preservation plans. We pointed out that the President's budget for fiscal year 1982 called for a significant reduction in appropriations for the historic preservation fund, which would result in diminishing the State role in determining historical significance. We concluded that diminishing the State role through reduced Federal funding ultimately might result in a need for more Federal funds, by requiring investigation by Federal agencies of the historical significance of State and local sites.

We have reviewed the sixth special message. Except as noted above, we have identified no additional information that would be useful to the Congress in its consideration of the President's proposal and we believe that the proposed deferral is in accordance with existing authority.

for *Milton J. Fowler*
Comptroller General
of the United States

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