

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

B-205053

June 30, 1982

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

On June 2, 1982, the President's thirteenth special message for fiscal year 1982 was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message proposes seven new deferrals totalling \$14.5 million and revisions to two deferrals previously reported increasing the amount deferred by \$140.5 million. Our report follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

D82-244 Soil Conservation Service Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations 12x1072



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

D82-245 Economic Development Administration Economic Development Assistance Programs 1322050

The special message states that these funds are being deferred pending Congressional action on a proposal to transfer the funds to the salaries and expenses account to meet increased pay costs. The conference version of H.R. 5922, the 1982 urgent supplemental appropriations bill, provides a supplemental amount of \$3.5 million for salaries and expenses, instead of the \$2.8 million requested by the Executive. The bill also specifies that the funds will be derived by transfer from the Economic Development Revolving Fund, rather than the EDA program account which is the subject of D82-245.

EDA officials told us that in light of Congressional action on H.R. 5922, they have requested that the deferred funds be released. Program officials also said that they will propose that the \$2.8 million be reprogrammed into the Title IX economic adjustment grant program. Consideration by the Commerce Department of the EDA request, dated June 14, 1982, will take approximately 30 days. If approved by the Department, the request then will be submitted to OMB for its approval.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

D82-246 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Construction and Anadromous Fish 14X1612

Agency officials told us that the deferred funds are derived from three construction projects, as follows:

Project	Amount
Cibola Refuge, Arizona	\$296,000
Brigantine Refuge, New Jersey	270,000
Lower Klamath Falls Refuge, Oregon	34,000
	\$600,000

D82-247 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition 14X5020

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Agency officials told us that the \$400,000 deferral is comprised of \$200,000 for acquisition management, used for planning future land acquisitions, and \$200,000 from the current land acquisition program for the Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge, Alabama, for which the total estimated land acquisition cost is \$3,360,000.

D82-229A Employment and Training Administration Employment and Training Assistance 161/20174 1620174

This deferral message reports an increase of \$140,554,000 to the deferral reported in D82-229. The increased amount represents a withholding of funds for the Job Corps program pending OMB approval of the Department of Labor's fourth quarter operational plan for the Job Corps. According to agency budget officials the deferral is comprised of the following amounts:

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Transfer to other DOL agencies to meet operational needs	\$ 19,781,000
Defray cost of October 1981 civilian and executive pay increases	21,333,000 */
Under review as to disposition	47,429,309 */
Fourth quarter funds for Job Corps	140,544,000
	\$229,087,309

In April 1982, the agency requested release of the \$47.4 million whose disposition was under review, for training and related assistance for displaced workers and for CETA audits. The request was denied by OMB in early May 1982. At that time, OMB also withheld approval for the agency's fourth quarter operational plan for the Job Corps because it did not indicate how the agency planned to reduce enrollment by the end of fiscal year 1982, in keeping with the transition to a smaller Job Corps program proposed in the fiscal year 1983 budget.

Agency officials expect OMB approval of the revised Job Corps plan before the start of the fourth quarter. However, if the plan is not approved and funds released by then, the officials said that there may be adverse effects on Job Corps centers and enrollments.

BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

D82-248 Grants and Expenses 9521145

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY

D82-249 Salaries and Expenses, Special Foreign Currency Program 67X0205

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^{*/} The amount needed to defray pay costs is \$348,000 less than the amount earmarked for that purpose from the total originally deferred in D82-229. The \$348,000 now has been added to the amount designated as under review as to disposition.

B-205053

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

D82-250 Milwaukee Railroad Restructuring, Administration 60X0108

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

D82-234A Surety Bond Guarantees Revolving Fund 73X4156

We have reviewed the thirteenth special message. The proposed deferrals are in accordance with existing authority. We have not identified any further information which would be useful to the Congress in its consideration of the President's proposals.

Comptroller General of the United States

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