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



March 22, 1976

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Speaker of the House  
President of the Senate

The purpose of this letter is to report the status of impounded budget authority for 18 proposed rescissions included in the President's seventh (November 18, 1975) and eighth (November 29, 1975) special messages. We will report on the release of R76-26 (Housing and Urban Development, Housing Production and Mortgage Credit) at a later date.

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 these cases, congressional action was not completed and the prescribed 45-day periods expired on February 20, 1976, and February 23, 1976, respectively.

For 12 rescissions 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 and 1977 fiscal year 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.

The following schedule shows in more detail the present status of the 12 rescission proposals. For the budget authority that was released, we have confirmed that OMB has apportioned that amount of budget authority to the respective Departments and the Departments have made it available for obligation.

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<u>Rescission number</u>	<u>Department and program</u>	<u>Rejected by Congress</u>	<u>Made Available by OMB</u>
	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE		
R76-9A	Elementary and Secondary Education	\$210,403,852	\$ 48,770,000
R76-11	Education for the Handicapped	36,375,000	1,375,000
R76-12	Occupational, Vocational, and Adult Education	14,240,950	10,240,950
R76-14	Library Resources	28,975,000	18,975,000
	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
R76-17A	Forestry Incentives Program - 1976	18,750,000	15,000,000
R76-18	Rural Water & Waste Disposal Grants	150,000,000	125,000,000
R76-19A	Rural Development Grants	12,344,000	9,375,000
R76-20	Rural Housing for Domestic Farm Labor	9,375,000	7,500,000
R76-21	Mutual and Self-help Housing	12,286,529	10,036,529
R76-24	Rural Community Fire Protection Grants	4,375,000	3,500,000
R76-25	Payments to States and Possessions, Agriculture Marketing Service, 1976	2,000,000	1,600,000
	CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION		
R76-27A	Salaries and Expenses	6,431,000	5,225,000 <sub>a/</sub>

a/ Rescission bill (H.R. 11665) which passed both houses of Congress March 15, 1976, rescinds \$2,656,000 for this program. When the Bill is enacted it will reduce the amount made available to \$2,969,000.

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In two instances, we found that OMB released more budget authority than was proposed for rescission. In the case of R76-16, (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Water Bank Act Program - 1976), while \$12,500,000 was proposed for rescission, Executive Branch officials had withheld since January 30, but did not report to the Congress, an additional \$8,071,770 which they were considering for a future impoundment message. We have confirmed that of the \$20,571,770 withheld, \$18,071,770 has been released and made available for obligation. The remaining \$2.5 million still being withheld is the transition quarter portion of the original \$12.5 million proposed rescission.

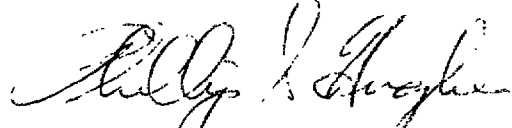
For R76-22 (Farmers Home Administration, Self-Help Housing Land Development Fund), the proposed rescission amount of \$1,498,032 plus an additional \$134,968 has been released by OMB. Agency officials informed us the additional budget authority was the result of unanticipated income from the program. All the budget authority has been made available for use.

We have confirmed that the total budget authority proposed for impoundment in the following rescissions (see schedule on the next page) has been apportioned by OMB and made available for obligation. For R76-10A, we found that \$194,265,000 of the amount proposed for rescission was not being withheld.

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<u>Rescission number</u>	<u>Department and program</u>	<u>Amount Released</u>
	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE	
R76-10A	School Assistance in Federally Affected Areas	\$243,773,154
R76-13	Higher Education	768,139,840
	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	
R76-15	Agricultural Research Service	225,000
R76-23	Rural Housing Insurance Fund	10,000,000

Sincerely yours,



Phillip S. Hughes  
Assistant Comptroller General