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

B-200685

May 15, 1981



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

On April 27, 1981, the President's ninth special message for fiscal year 1981 was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message proposes revisions to six previously transmitted rescission proposals. Three of the revisions decrease the total amount proposed for rescission by \$3.7 million. The other three revisions do not change the amounts proposed for rescission, but were submitted to make technical changes in the original proposals. The special message also proposes two new deferrals of budget authority totalling \$6.4 million and revisions to five previously transmitted deferrals. The proposals contained in the ninth special message are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- R81-45A Rural Electrification Administration Rural Communication Development Fund 12X4142
- R81-122A Rural Electrification Administration Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund 12X4230

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

R81-130A Energy Programs
Energy Supply, Research and Development
Activities - Operating Expenses
89X0224

ACTION

R81-103A Operating Expenses, Domestic Programs 4410103

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

R81-110A Research and Related Activities 491/20100

016939

OGC-81-10

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R81-111A Science and Engineering Education Activities 4910106

The 45-day period of continuous session during which funds proposed for rescission in R81-130A could be withheld pending congressional consideration of a rescission bill ended on April 27, 1981. As we stated in the eighth special message, our review of apportionment forms furnished by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) shows that on April 28, 1981, the subject budget authority was apportioned by OMB to the proper agency for allotment to the programs involved since the proposed rescission had not been enacted.

Based on the current legislative calendar, the 45-day period of continuous session during which funds proposed for rescissions R81-45A, R81-103A, R81-110A, R81-122A, and R81-111A may be withheld pending congressional consideration of a rescission bill ends on May 17, 1981.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

D81-2A Forest Service
Expenses, Brush Disposal
12X5206

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

D81-105 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Promote and Develop Fishery Products
and Research Pertaining to American
Fisheries
13X5139

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

D81-33B Energy Programs
Fossil Energy Construction
89X0214

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

D81-11A Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health Scientific Activities Overseas (Special Foreign Currency Program)
75X1102

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

D81-89A Federal Highway Administration
Trust Fund Share of Other Highway
Programs
69X8009

This deferral initially was proposed in the sixth special message for fiscal year 1981 on March 10, 1981. This revision reduces the amount deferred by \$3.8 million to accurately reflect the amount of funds already obligated at the time the program was stopped and the original deferral proposed was submitted.

In our impoundment report on the sixth special message, dated April 13, 1981, we concluded that the deferral was not authorized by the Impoundment Control Act. Our conclusion was based on our determination that the deferred funds were required to be apportioned and made available to the States under the terms of the Federal-Aid Highway Act. 23 U.S.C. 101 et seq. We recommended to the Congress that the deferral be disapproved by an impoundment resolution on the basis that the deferral is unauthorized.

BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

D81-106 Grants and Expenses 9511145

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY

D81-76A Acquisition and Construction of Radio Facilities 67X0204

We have reviewed the ninth 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 proposals and we believe that the proposed deferrals are in accordance with existing authority.

Acting Comptroller General of the United States

Wilton J. Howlan