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

July 9, 1975

B-115398



Speaker of the House
President of the Senate

This letter reports a deferral of Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior budget authority which should have been, but was not, reported to the Congress as required by the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. ⁴² ₃₃

H. J. Res. 499, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1976 was signed by the President as Public Law 94-41 on June 27, 1975. This continuing resolution appropriated for the Youth Conservation Corps a rate for operations not in excess of the current rate (\$10,240,000) plus an additional \$10,000,000 which is to remain available through fiscal year 1977. One-half of the \$20,240,000 thus appropriated is available to the Secretary of Agriculture and one-half is available to the Secretary of the Interior.

Officials at OMB told us that they had not yet authorized the Youth Conservation Corps to spend the \$10 million that the continuing resolution added to last year's rate of operations. We were told that an impoundment message involving these funds was being prepared for consideration by the President.

Such a message, if approved by the President, is not expected to be submitted to the Congress until the latter part of July or possibly later. Since the Youth Conservation Corps is a summer program, the Congress may not be able to act in a timely manner on an impoundment message received so late. Such an event would effectively defer use of the funds until next summer.

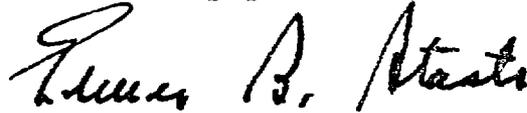
Section 1015(a) of the Impoundment Control Act requires the Comptroller General to report to the Congress whenever he finds that the President, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the head of any department or agency of the United States or any other officer or employee of the United States has ordered, permitted, or approved the establishment of a reserve or deferral of budget authority and the President has failed

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to transmit a special message with respect to such reserve or deferral. This report is submitted in accordance with the requirement imposed by section 1015(a) and, consequently has the same effect as if it were a deferral message transmitted by the President.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James B. Stastik".

Comptroller General
of the United States