

DOCUMENT RESUME

07683 - [C3068169]

[President's First Special Message for Fiscal Year 1979
Containing 30 Deferral Proposals]. OGC-79-3; B-115398. October
31, 1978. 1 pp. + enclosure (5 pp.).

Report to the Congress; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Budget Function: Miscellaneous: Impoundment Control Act of 1974
(1005).

Organization Concerned: Department of Agriculture; Department of
Commerce; Department of Defense; Department of Health,
Education, and Welfare; Department of the Interior;
Department of Justice; Department of State; Department of
Transportation; Department of the Treasury; General Services
Administration; Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the
United States; Interstate Commerce Commission.

Congressional Relevance: Congress.

Authority: Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

The President's first special message for fiscal year 1979 pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 contains 30 deferral proposals affecting a total of \$1,178.2 million in budget authority for the Departments of Agriculture; Commerce; Defense; Health, Education, and Welfare; Interior; Justice; State; Transportation; and Treasury; the General Services Administration; the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission; and the Interstate Commerce Commission. The information provided was correct and actions proposed were clearly and accurately stated with the following exceptions: the justification for deferral of authority for the Department of the Interior's Office of Territorial Affairs incorrectly indicated that a transportation-needs survey for a proposed airport in the Kosrae District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands had not yet been performed; the amount shown as deferred for Buildings and Facilities for the Department of Justice's Federal Prison System should be \$37,165,000 instead of \$25,300,000; and amounts reported under "Type of account or fund" for the Federal Highway Administration's Trust Fund Share of Other Highway Programs should be corrected. (HTW)



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

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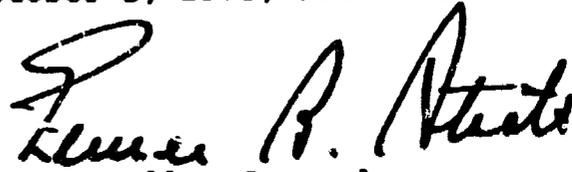
IN REPLY REFER TO: B-115398

October 31, 1978

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

On October 2, 1978, we received copies of the President's first special message for fiscal year 1979 that was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message contains 30 deferral proposals affecting a total of \$1,178.2 million in budget authority.

Our comments on the information submitted in the special message of October 2, 1978, are enclosed.


Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure

GAO COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST
SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979

Except as noted below, we conclude that the information provided in the new deferral proposals is correct and that the actions being proposed have been clearly and accurately stated.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- D79-1 Foreign Agricultural Service
Salaries and Expenses
(Special Foreign Currency Program)
12X2901
- D79-2 Agricultural Stabilization and
Conservation Service
Commodity Credit Corporation
Administrative Expenses, 1978
128433f
- D79-3 Forest Service
Expenses, Brush Disposal
12X5206
- D79-4 Forest Service
Restoration of Forest Lands and
Improvements, Forest Service
12X5215

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- D79-5 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Construction
13X1452
- D79-6 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Promote and Develop Fishery
Products and Research Pertain-
ing to American Fisheries
13X5139

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D79-7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Fisheries Loan Fund
137/04317

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

D79-8 Military Construction

D79-9 Wildlife Conservation

D79-10 Corps of Engineers
Alaska Hydroelectric Power
Development Fund
96X4203

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

D79-11 Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health
Administration
Construction and Renovation at St.
Elizabeths Hospital
75X1312

D79-12 Social Security Administration
Limitation on Administrative Expenses
75X8704

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

D79-13 Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Service
Land and Water Conservation Fund
14X5005

D79-14 Geological Survey
Payments from Proceeds, Sale of Water
Mineral Leasing Act of 1920
14X5662

D79-15 Bureau of Mines
Drainage of Anthracite Mines
14X0956

D79-16 Office of Territorial Affairs
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
14X0414

The justification for the above deferral indicates that a transportation-needs survey for the proposed airport in the Kosrae District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has not yet been performed. This is incorrect. We determined that the subject survey was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget during October-November 1977 and that OMB then requested and received earlier this year additional information relating to the airport study. We were told that it is possible that OMB will approve the construction of the airport in the near future.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

D79-17 Federal Prison System
Buildings and Facilities
15X1003

The amount shown as deferred in D79-17 should be \$37,165,000 instead of \$25,300,000. Our review of this deferral establishes that an additional \$11,865,000 was deferred since the date on which this special message was sent to the Congress. The increase is due primarily to the fact that the fiscal year 1979 appropriation was enacted into law and, therefore, more budgetary resources were available to the program. OMB agrees and informs us that a supplementary deferral message will soon be sent to the Congress explaining the matter in greater detail.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

D79-18 United States Emergency Refugee and
Migration Assistance Fund, Executive
11X0040

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

D79-19 Federal Aviation Administration
Civil Supersonic Aircraft Development Termination
69X0106
Civil Supersonic Aircraft Development
69X1358

B-115398

D79-20 Federal Aviation Administration
Facilities and Equipment (Airport and
Airway Trust Fund), FAA
69X8107, 697/98107, 698/08107, 699/18107

D79-21 Federal Highway Administration
Trust Fund Share of Other Highway
Programs (Great River Road)
69X8009

The amounts reported under the caption "Type of account or fund" should be: Sept. 30, 1979, \$33,750,000; Sept. 30, 1980, \$31,250,000; Sept. 30, 1981, \$25,000,000. OMB agrees with us and will correct its records accordingly.

D79-22 Federal Highway Administration
Overseas Highway
69X8021

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

D79-23 Office of the Secretary
Antirecession Financial
Assistance Fund
208/90108

D79-24 Office of the Secretary
State and Local Government Fiscal
Assistance Trust Fund
20X8111

D79-25 Office of the Secretary
State and Local Government Fiscal
Assistance Trust Fund
20X8111

D79-26 Bureau of the Mint
Construction of Mint Facilities
20X1617

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

D79-27 Rare Silver Dollar Program
47X0701

B-115398

D79-28 Federal Preparedness Agency
State and Local Preparedness
47X0618

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

D79-29 Payment of Vietnam Prisoner of War
Claims
79X0104

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

D79-30 Payments for Directed Rail Service
30X0103