

114796



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

March 3, 1981

B-200685



114796

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

On January 29, 1981, the President's fourth special message for ~~fiscal year 1981~~ was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message proposed a rescission (R81-34) of \$1.5 million appropriated to the Executive Office of the President, Council on Wage and Price Stability for salaries and expenses.

An official for the Council informed us that reduction in force notifications were issued on or about February 2, 1981, and that staff positions will be reduced from about 170 to about 35 by March 7, 1981.

Based on the current legislative calendar, the 45-day period of continuous session during which funds proposed for rescission in R81-34 may be withheld pending congressional consideration of a rescission bill ends on March 25, 1981. Under section 1012(b) of the Impoundment Control Act, the funds covered by R81-34 must be made available for obligation if a rescission bill is not passed by the Congress by that date. However, officials with the Council and OMB informed us that since the positions and the program being terminated were established by Executive Order under authority granted to the President by Congress, this action will occur regardless of whether the rescission proposal is passed. OMB stated that R81-34 was proposed merely to comply with the technical requirements of the Act. Therefore, if a rescission bill is not passed, the funds will be made available but go unspent since the program and positions will be terminated.

No issue area
Primary budget function
1005

James B. Steele
Comptroller General
of the United States

016234

OGC-81-4