

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 5, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary  
-----THE WHITE HOUSE

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President met yesterday with his senior Economic and Energy advisers. They reviewed with the President general economic subjects and discussed programs proposed and in place to deal with our current economic conditions.

At the conclusion of that meeting, the President made the following observations and decisions. First he noted that the Budget he transmitted to the Congress last month included \$32 billion for aid to the unemployed during FY-75 and FY-76. The President noted that \$5 billion of that aid depended on congressional action and he asked the staff to work with the appropriate committees of Congress to see that the money needed is available in time to meet benefit payments as they come due.

The President also observed that his budget recommendations provided funding for 310,000 Public Service Jobs through this calendar year. He has decided now that it would be appropriate and desirable to provide the funds necessary to continue these jobs another six months through July first of 1976. Therefore, he has decided to recommend to Congress that they provide supplemental funding totaling \$1.625 billion to carry out that purpose in addition to the \$2.5 billion already contained in the Budget for public service jobs and other manpower programs.

Under the provisions of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) enacted in December, 1973, the state and local governments make decisions as to the allocation of manpower funds between institutional, on-the-job training, summer youth employment and other purposes. The President was advised that preliminary plans indicate that state and local governments are not allocating sufficient funds to meet this summer's needs for job opportunities for youth. Therefore, the President has decided to seek supplemental funding for specific summer youth programs this year in the amount of \$412 million. This will insure an additional 760,000 summer youth job opportunities on top of the allocations made by State and local sponsors from CETA funds already provided.

Finally, the President indicated a concern about the possibility of unemployed workers exhausting their unemployment compensation benefits. The President asked that a study of this problem be completed promptly for his review.

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