

JULY 9, 1975

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESSWHITE HOUSE EMPLOYMENT BILL

To clarify some confusion which developed during Ron Nessen's briefing on questions concerning the bill to authorize increases in the White House Staff -- here are the facts:

1. The recommendations for 95 supergrade positions in the staff (\$36,000 a year and above) are those of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. They are NOT the recommendations of the Administration. The Administration opposes the concept of setting limits by grade on White House Staff as would be done in this authorization bill. The only Administration request for specific grade was for a ceiling of 14 Level II (\$42,500) positions in FY 1976. This was the same ceiling on employee compensation appropriations in FY 1975. If the bill should become law, the Administration has no intention of seeking the full authority it offers.
2. The Administration opposes the limits by grade on top White House staff positions because it feels strongly that any President should have the maximum flexibility possible in determining how his staff is to be organized and paid -- within budgetary and appropriations limits. Every President to the present has enjoyed this flexibility in meeting its staff needs.
3. Numbers and Appropriations for White House Staff:
 

FY 1975	( Actual)	\$10,892,000 for a staff of 540.
FY 1976	(Requested)	\$10,564,000 for Staff of 500.

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