

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 8 , 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of Nebraska as a result of ice storms and high winds beginning about March 30. The storms and winds caused extensive damage to electric power utilities, and resulted in massive power outages in widespread areas of the State. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of funding for the repair of power transmission lines and restoration of downed utility poles, as well as other such assistance as may be required.

Federal relief activities in Nebraska will be coordinated by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Administrator Thomas P. Dunne. Mr. Dunne will designate the specific areas within the State eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and State damage assessments.

Mr. Francis X. Tobin, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region VII, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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