

OCTOBER 15 , 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today declared an emergency for the State of Virginia because of the impact of a drought. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

The emergency situation has resulted from severe drought conditions that have affected widespread portions of the State. The drought has impacted heavily on livestock, as the pastures in the State have died out because of the lack of moisture. The President's declaration of an emergency will provide a Federal program of hay transportation by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to assist cattlemen and dairy farmers with transportation costs of hay needed to maintain the herds in the State. Emergency credit from the Department of Agriculture will be provided through the Farmers Home Administration.

Federal relief and recovery activities in Virginia 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. Mr. Arthur T. Doyle, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Region III, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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NOTE:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FDAA: (202) 634-6666.