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UNTIL 3:30 P.M. (EST)

April 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 8, 1976

The President
of the Senate

Sir:

I ask the Congress to give immediate consideration to proposed supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 1976 in the amount of \$528,420,000 for the Department of Labor's summer youth employment program.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

I also remind the Congress that the \$1.7 billion I requested in 1976 supplemental appropriations for temporary employment assistance is urgently needed to prevent substantial layoffs from federally subsidized public service jobs by the end of this fiscal year.

Respectfully,

GERALD R. FORD

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APRIL 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Today I am formally transmitting to the Congress a request for a supplemental appropriation of \$528 million which will support 888,100 jobs for disadvantaged youth this summer.

The Secretary of Labor has advised me that the unemployment picture for youth is expected to improve this year over last year. However, the problem of youth unemployment continues to be a difficult one, especially in the summer months when students are out of school and seeking work. The action I am proposing today, combined with other related summer youth programs, will mean Federal efforts will produce a summer job for 1.5 million young people.

If Congress acts in a timely fashion on this request for a supplemental appropriation, the Summer Youth Employment Program will get funds where they are needed while they can be most useful. The appropriation I am requesting will create the same number of jobs at the local level as we achieved last summer.

I have made my request to the Congress in the form of an urgent supplemental. Many areas begin their programs in May, and sufficient lead time is required to ensure proper planning for so large a program. It is important that the employment provided to these young people be meaningful, and that the program operate with maximum efficiency.

I also want to call attention again to the importance of prompt Congressional action on a related matter -- my request for \$1.7 billion in supplemental funding for public service jobs under the CETA program. This request, contained in my 1977 Budget, would provide funds needed to prevent layoffs from Federally supported public service jobs programs. A number of local sponsors are already facing the prospect of terminating their programs because their funds are running out.

This public service employment program is already employing people. Whatever differences I may have with the Congress over other aspects of the job creation issue, there is no reason why local officials and individual job holders should be held in suspense or in fear of being laid off.

Action is essential on both the summer youth and the temporary employment assistance supplemental requests. I hope the Congress will act quickly to pass both measures.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
APRIL 8, 1976

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April 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND: In his fiscal year 1977 budget, the President indicated his intention to request a supplemental for summer youth jobs for 1976 as soon as the projections of summer youth job needs were available. In March, the Secretary of Labor made his analysis of the situation, and as a result, the President is requesting \$528,420,000 to finance 883,100 jobs under the authority of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), Section 304(a)(3). The action the President is taking today, combined with other related summer youth employment programs, means Federal efforts will produce summer jobs for 1.5 million young people.

DELIVERY SYSTEM: Funds are allocated among existing CETA sponsors who are generally States, cities and counties with populations of 100,000 or more, consortia of jurisdictions, and Indian Tribes and organizations.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS: Funds are allocated by formula among the sponsors, taking into account last year's allocation, relative distribution of low income families, and relative levels of unemployment (data to be used in the formula will be available early in May). No sponsor will receive fewer slots than were allocated last year.

ELIGIBLE YOUTH: Youth are eligible if they are age 14 - 21 and qualify under the Department of Labor's definition of disadvantaged. Generally this includes those on public assistance and those whose family income levels are below the poverty guidelines established under criteria issued by the Office of Management and Budget. For a family of four, the income level for the coming summer is \$5,500.

TYPE OF JOBS: Jobs are generally 20 hours per week for nine weeks. They pay at least the minimum wage and are in a wide range of community public or nonprofit worksites, e.g.: hospitals, libraries, day care and health services. At local option there are varying degrees of training and supportive services provided.

RELATED SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS: In addition to the jobs funded by the supplemental there will be additional Federally generated youth employment programs as follows:

Federal Summer Employment Program: Under Civil Service Commission guidance, Federal agencies will hire about 54,000 disadvantaged youth. (An additional 30,000 young people are expected to be hired for the summer under merit staffing procedures.)

Youth Conservation Corps: About 26,000 youth (not restricted to disadvantaged) will do conservation work in Federal and State parks and forests under Department of Agriculture and Interior direction.

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National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB): NAB has pledged 200,000 jobs for disadvantaged youth.

Employment Service: The State Employment Services have set a goal of placing an estimated 335,000 disadvantaged youths in summer jobs.

CETA Title I: Many sponsors will provide additional summer jobs from funds already available under Title I of CETA. Last year 143,000 jobs were funded this way. There is no estimate yet of how much will be provided this year.

SUMMARY: The attached table gives the 1976 summer job effort compared to 1975. A report on the overall effort is being sent to Congress by the Secretary of Labor.

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Summer Jobs Programs for Youths
Estimated Number of Jobs and Federal Funding 1976 and 1975

| Program | 1976 (Planned) | | 1975 (Actual) | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Summer Jobs | New Obligational Authority | Summer Jobs | Expenditures |
| CETA Title III (Summer Program for Economically Disadvantaged Youth) | 888,100 | \$528,420,000 | 888,100 | \$433,056,000 |
| Federal Summer Employment Program for Youth | 54,000 | 51,500,000 | 53,900 | 40,484,000 |
| Youth Conservation Corps | 26,000 | 32,000,000 | 12,000 | 13,000,000 |
| Employment Service (ES) Youth Placements | 335,000 | <u>1/</u> | 323,000 | <u>1/</u> |
| National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB) | 200,000 | <u>1/</u> | 221,900 | <u>1/</u> |
| Total Estimated Summer Hires | 1,503,100 ^{2/} | \$611,920,000 | 1,498,900 ^{2/} | \$486,540,000 |
| CETA Title I | <u>3/</u> | <u>3/</u> | 143,400 | \$ 60,020,000 |

1/ Costs of wages borne by employing establishments; promotion and placement costs are not available.

2/ Total may include a small number of ES placements in jobs pledged through the NAB program.

3/ An undetermined number of jobs will be provided by prime sponsors under Title I allocations.

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON SIGNING THE
SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL

THE ROSE GARDEN

3:40 P.M. EST

Governor Ray, Secretary Usery, Chairman Hampton, distinguished Mayors and county officials:

We have all been very encouraged by the steady improvement in the economy in the last several months. The Secretary of Labor also advises me that the youth employment situation has shown some gain in the past few months and is optimistic about the future.

Nevertheless, with the advent of summer vacations, it is very, very clear that more young people will be seeking jobs than the private sector will be able to provide.

I am therefore formally transmitting to the Congress today an urgent supplemental request that would provide \$528 million to support jobs for over 888,000 disadvantaged youths this summer.

If the Congress will act promptly on my request, local CETA sponsors will be able to provide meaningful work and training opportunities for substantial numbers of young people this summer.

I am also sending a memorandum today to the heads of all Federal departments and agencies calling upon them to cooperate fully with the efforts of the Civil Service Commission, to provide summer jobs in Government for an additional 54,000 needy youths.

Finally, on a related matter, let me again urge the Congress to act on my request of January for \$1 billion 700 million to continue the existing public service employment program. Many local prime sponsors of CETA are running very short of funds and will have to lay off people if Congress does not act readily.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist on the job creation issue, there is no reason why local officials and those already employed by CETA public service jobs should be kept in suspense and fear of layoffs.

I hope and trust the Congress will act promptly on this important matter and I am now very pleased to sign these two measures.

I hope it is as easy to get the money as it is to sign the message. (Laughter)

Thank you all very, very much.

END (AT 3:45 P.M. EST)

April 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

When schools close for the summer months, many young Americans will be seeking temporary summer employment. This year, as in the past, Federal agencies can help these young men and women put their vacations to practical use.

I am once again requesting that Federal managers give their full support to the Federal Summer Employment Program for Youth. Past experience clearly indicates that young people are not only effective in the performance of duties as replacements for vacationing employees, but are also useful in a variety of other activities necessary in accomplishing the Government's missions. Also important is the fact that summer employment gives us a chance to expand relationships with educational institutions and, at the same time, assist students who need the income to help out with school expenses.

I urge all agencies to conduct balanced programs through the selection of young people who have successfully competed in the summer employment examination, those who have qualified under merit staffing and the Federal Summer Intern Program. In addition, to assure that needy young people have the opportunity to become involved, I am again setting a general goal of one needy youth for every 40 regular employees.

Chairman Hampton of the Civil Service Commission will continue to provide guidance on all aspects of the Government's summer programs and will report to me on accomplishments. In the past, the success of this program has been the result of support by Federal managers. I urge your continued personal involvement.

GERALD R. FORD

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