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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

WSR

August 16, 1974

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Representative Harley O. Staggers (D-W.Va.)

PURPOSE: To return Congressman Staggers call of Wednesday, August 14, 1974, concerning H.R. 15301, Railroad Retirement

VIA: William E. Timmons *PO*

RECOMMENDED BY: Max L. Friedersdorf *m.f.*

- BACKGROUND:
1. Chairman Staggers was calling to enlist Presidential support for objectionable Committee bill which has since been reported out of full Committee by voice vote.
 2. Chairman Staggers' bill would shift the burden of railroad retirement financing to the general Treasury, costing \$390 million the first year, and rising to \$4.5 billion over 20 years.
 3. House Republicans believe the Democratic Leadership will press for early action after the recess, but Republicans hope to delay Floor consideration until near adjournment and force Staggers to accept a simple, one-year extension of the present law.

TALKING POINTS:

1. Harley, I am sorry I missed your call and understand you have now reported the Committee bill.
2. I am aware of the serious deficit situation in the Railroad Retirement system, but cannot support the Federal subsidy because of our serious inflation problems.
3. I would prefer a one-year extension of the existing structure, without dipping into appropriated public funds.
4. Harley, I hope we can work together to keep spending down and bring this inflation under control.