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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *J.F.*

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

March 28, 1975

MR 7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

As requested in our conversation today, attached is a statement which outlines the requalifying requirements for claimants who exhaust their benefits under the emergency extended programs.

John T. Pando
Secretary of Labor

Attachment

Basic State Law Requirements to Qualify for Unemployment Insurance -- Applicable to Claimants Who Exhaust Federal Supplemental Benefits (as well as to new claimants)

In all States workers are required to demonstrate their attachment to the labor force in order to qualify for unemployment benefits. This demonstration of work force attachment is usually accomplished by measuring the claimant's work experience during a recent one-year period commonly called the base period. The basic principle involved is that a claimant is required to obtain insured status before qualifying for benefits.

The method of measuring a claimant's insured status varies widely among States. However, basically the requirements are in terms of either weeks worked during the base period or wages earned in the base period. These two approaches are usually expressed as follows:

1. A claimant is required during the base period to have worked in a specified number of weeks. This usually ranges from 14 (as in the State of Michigan) to 20 weeks. To count as a week of work generally a minimum amount of wages per week must be earned (usually \$20 to \$25 in the case of Michigan).

2. When using wages as a measure of attachment, they are usually expressed in terms of a flat dollar requirement or a quarterly distribution of wages between quarters. This method, which is more commonly used than weeks of work, achieves essentially the same results as requiring a number of weeks of work. For example, the common approach of requiring a claimant to earn total wages equal to 1 1/2 times his high quarterly earnings effectively yields the same result as requiring about 20 weeks of work.

Therefore, based upon the criteria outlined above, claimants who exhaust the full 52 weeks of benefits under the permanent and temporary unemployment insurance program would have great difficulty in requalifying for regular unemployment insurance benefits. Obviously, being unemployed during the full year would not permit the claimant to have been employed during the required 20 weeks.

Specifically, there are 14 States that use weeks of work and the remaining States use some form of dollar measure. The Michigan law requires 14 weeks of work in each of which the claimant must have earned at least \$25.

It should be noted that meeting only the minimum requirements expressed in the State laws will yield only the lowest weekly benefit amounts provided (typically about \$10) and such benefits will be payable for as few as 10 weeks.

Workers who have exhausted benefits will be able to qualify again for unemployment insurance only after they have worked the specified number of weeks or earned the amount of qualifying wages in a new base period (in Michigan this would be 14 weeks).