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FEBRUARY 15, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of Texas as a result of damage caused by severe storms and flooding beginning about January 31, which caused damage to public, private, and agricultural property. 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 temporary housing assistance for families who have lost their homes as a result of the flooding; Disaster Unemployment Assistance; and the repair or restoration of damaged streets, roads, bridges, and public facilities and utilities. Low-interest rate disaster loans for homeowners and businesses will be made available by the Small Business Administration under the authorities of Public Law 93-24, and emergency loan assistance will be made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

Federal relief activities in Texas 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. Joe D. Winkle, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region VI, 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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