

The original documents are located in Box 12, “7/25/75 - Veto Statement, H.R. 5901, Education Appropriation” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...⁶⁻⁸

VETO STATEMENT

H.R. 5901, EDUCATION APPROPRIATION

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1975

I AM TODAY RETURNING WITHOUT MY APPROVAL
H.R. 5901, THE EDUCATION APPROPRIATION ACT, 1976.

THROUGHOUT MY PUBLIC LIFE, I HAVE BELIEVED --
AND STILL BELIEVE -- THAT EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE STRONG
FOUNDATION STONES OF OUR REPUBLIC. BUT THAT IS
NOT THE ISSUE IN THIS APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE REAL ISSUE IS WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO IMPOSE
FISCAL DISCIPLINE ON OURSELVES OR WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO
SPEND OURSELVES INTO FISCAL INSOLVENCY.

THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR APPROPRIATION BILL
PASSED BY THE CONGRESS THIS YEAR. IT WOULD PROVIDE
7.9 BILLION DOLLARS -- 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE BUDGET.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, I DREW A LINE ON THE BUDGET
DEFICIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976 AT 60 BILLION DOLLARS. EVEN
THAT DEFICIT IS TOO HIGH. BUT ON MAY 14, THE CONGRESS
DREW ITS OWN LINE AT THE EVEN HIGHER DEFICIT LEVEL OF
69 BILLION DOLLARS. TODAY, THE CONGRESS' OWN JULY 21
BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT ESTIMATES A POSSIBLE DEFICIT
THIS YEAR OF OVER 83 BILLION DOLLARS.

I CANNOT, IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, SUPPORT SUCH
A HUGE DEFICIT. NOR CAN THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY
AFFORD THE INFLATION THAT WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT, THIS YEAR,
NEXT YEAR AND THE YEAR AFTER.

MONEY APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRESS INEVITABLY
IS TAKEN FROM THE PEOPLE -- EITHER THROUGH HIGHER TAXES;
OR BY INFLATION, OR BOTH.

THIS APPROPRIATION BILL IS TOO MUCH TO ASK THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE -- AND OUR ECONOMY -- TO BEAR.

I URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO SUSTAIN
MY VETO OF THIS BILL AND THEN WE CAN WORK TOGETHER --
AS WE HAVE BEFORE -- TO ACHIEVE A RESPONSIBLE COMPROMISE.

END OF TEXT